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QUIZZISM; AND ITS KEY.

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Quirks and Quibbles from Queer Quarters.

A MÉLANGE OF QUESTIONS IN LITERATURE, SCIENCE, HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, MYTHOLOGY, PHILOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, ETC. ETC.

WITH THEIR ANSWERS.

27604.52

BY

ALBERT P. SOUTHWICK, A. M.

AUTHOR OF DIME SERIES OF QUESTION BOOKS, SHORT STUDIES IN LITERATURE, ETC.

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PREFATORY.

In furtherance of the design of helping others to secure *accurate* scholarship, of correcting many popular errors and vulgar fallacies, of tendering an explanation of the many common philosophical principles which arise daily, and of the casual expressions and frequent quotations interpolated in ordinary conversation, this work is offered to an appreciative and critical public.

That it may produce higher and more noble results of awakening an intense interest in general study among the great body of teachers and students, and that its literary worth may prove acceptable to the vast array of intelligent readers and the intelligence of the land, — to whom educational technics are undiscussed problems, — is the heartfelt wish of the writer.

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INTRODUCTORY.

"*What song the Syrens sang, or what name Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women, though puzzling questions, are not beyond all conjecture.*" — URN-BURIAL, chap. 5.

"The contents of his book seemed to be as heterogeneous as those of the witches' caldron in Macbeth. It was here a finger and there a thumb, toe of frog and blind-worm's sting, with his own gossip poured in like 'baboon's blood,' to make the medley 'slab and good.'" — *Irving.*

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"I did not ask you to come to talk business, but I think we are entitled to congratulate ourselves all round, I do, really. I say it 's a deuced good-looking periodical we 've turned out. I 'm not ashamed to have it lying in my drawing-room, and when any one comes in, I 'm not ashamed if they take it up." — *William Black*, SHANDON BELLS, chap. 8.

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QUIZZISM; AND ITS KEY.

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1. Where is the "Valley of Death"?

In the Island of Java. It is simply the crater of an extinct volcano, half a mile in circumference, filled with carbonic-acid gas, which continually emanates from fissures in the bottom of the valley. The gas being invisible, and entirely irrespirable, every living thing that descends below the margin of the valley is instantly suffocated; and, as the same fate awaits any one that may go to the rescue, the ground is covered with the bones of numerous animals, and even men, that have approached the precincts. A desert valley in Southern California bears the same name.

This depression, which is situated east of the highest ranges of the Sierra Nevada (the Telescopes), is watered by the Amargoza River. It is about forty miles wide, a hundred miles in length, and its center is, in winter, a salt marsh, whose surface is two hundred and eighty feet below the sea level.

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2. What city stands on twenty-six islands?

Ghent, Belgium. The islands are connected with each other by eighty bridges. The city has three hundred streets, and thirty public squares. It is noted for being the birth-place of Charles V. and John of Gaunt, "time-honored Lancaster"; and the scene of the "Pacification of Ghent" (November 8, 1576), several insurrections, sieges, and

executions. It is associated with American history by that "foolish treaty" made there, December 24, 1814, terminating the second war between England and the United States.

3. What city is built upon piles driven into the ground?

Amsterdam, Holland. It is intersected by numerous canals crossed by nearly three hundred bridges. The city resembles Venice in the intermixture of land and water, though it is considerably larger. The canals divide the city, which is about ten miles in circumference, into ninety islands.

4. Where is Venice built?

On eighty islets, which are connected by nearly four hundred bridges. Canals serve for streets and gondolas for carriages. The bridges generally are steep, but with easy steps. The circumference of the city is about eight miles. Venice joined the Lombard league against the German Emperor, and, in 1177, gained a great victory in defence of Pope Alexander III., over the fleet headed by Otho, son of Frederic Barbarossa. In gratitude for this victory the Pope gave the Doge Ziani a ring, and instituted the ceremony of "marrying the Adriatic."

5. Who was the first martyr to American liberty?

On February 22, 1770, a mob, principally boys, attacked the house of Mr. Richardson, Boston, owing to his having attempted to remove the mark set against the house of one Lille, who had contravened the non-importation law. Richardson fired upon the mob and killed *Christopher Snider*, a boy eleven years of age, who was recorded in the public prints as "the first martyr to American liberty."

6. What is the location of St. Petersburg?

It is built chiefly on a peninsula, on the left bank of the Neva, and on two adjoining islands. The river is crossed by one stone bridge, and by several floating bridges, which are removed in winter, when the ice serves as a highway.

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7. When and where was a convention held in a barn, and the Bible adopted as a constitution?

At Quinipiac, Connecticut, April 13, 1638, by the settlers, who afterwards laid the foundation of a city and called it New Haven.

8. Who said, "Show me a man's handwriting, and I will tell you his character"?

William Shenstone, the poet, literary idler, and landscape gardener, born in 1714, in Shropshire, England, where his father owned the small estate of Leasowes; wrote *Pastoral Ballad* and *The Schoolmistress*. He died in 1763.

9. On what famous occasion were these memorable words used: "A shrubbery, that Shenstone might have envied, blooms around him"?

In the trial of Aaron Burr (1756–1836) for treason. By William Wirt (1772–1834), in his defence of Blannerhassett, at Richmond, Virginia, in 1807.

10. Who first used in Western Asia the Indian figures 1, 2, 3, etc., commonly called the Arabic numerals?

Mohammed Ben Musa, who lived about A. D. 900. He is the earliest Arabian writer on algebra, or the solution of problems by means of letters.

11. Who was the "original Mrs. Partington"?

A respectable old lady, who lived at Sidmouth, in Devonshire, England. Her cottage was on the beach, and during an awful storm (in November, 1824, when some fifty or sixty ships were wrecked at Plymouth), the sea rose to such a height as every now and then to invade the old lady's residence; in fact, almost every wave dashed in at the door. Mrs. Partington, with such help as she could command, with mops and brooms, as fast as the water entered the house, mopped it out again; until at length the waves had the mastery, and the dame was compelled to retire to an upper story. The first allusion to the circumstance was made by Sydney Smith, in a speech on the Reform Bill, in which he compared the Conservative opposition to the bill to be like the opposition of "Dame Partington and her mop, who endeavored to mop out the waves of the Atlantic."

12. What was the origin of the superstition concerning the number 13?

In London, during the twenty years 1660–79, the general death-rate was 80 per 1,000 living, or 1 in 12½. It is probable that the belief arose about this time, as it would be a correct statement of the probabilities if all classes were proportionally represented. This calculation, by means of a false interpretation, has given rise to the prejudice against "thirteen at dinner" and a supposition that the danger will be avoided by inviting a greater number of guests, which can only have the effect of augmenting the probability of the event so much apprehended. By some it is supposed that the superstition owes its origin to the number that sat down to the Lord's table just previous to His crucifixion. There have been a number of societies formed of thirteen

members, to disprove this "popular fallacy," one of which held its thirty-fifth annual dinner recently, in New York City, with ranks unbroken.

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13. "Seven cities fought for Homer *dead*
Through which Homer *living* begged his bread."

What were the seven cities?

Chios, Athens, Rhodes, Colophon, Argos, Smyrna, Salamis. They can be easily remembered by the word "carcass" which the initials give. Thomas Heywood, who died in 1649, wrote:—

"Seven cities warred for Homer being dead;
Who living had no roofe to shrowd his head";

and to Thomas Seward (1708–1790) is accredited the lines:—

"Seven wealthy towns contend for Homer dead
Through which the living Homer begged his bread."

14. What was the name of the sailor with Columbus who first saw the "New World"?

It was first descried by a mariner on board the Pinta, named Rodrigo de Triana, at two o'clock in the morning. October 12, 1492.

15. What was the "Santa Maria"?

The only one of the three vessels that had a deck: on board of this ship Columbus hoisted his flag. The Pinta was commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and the Niña by Vicente Yanez Pinzon.

16. Whom did Columbus marry?

While at Lisbon (1484) he was accustomed to attend religious service at the chapel of the convent of All Saints. In this convent were certain ladies of rank, either resident

as boarders, or in some religious capacity. With one of these, Columbus became acquainted. She was Doña Felipa, daughter of Bartolomeo Monis de Perestrello, an Italian cavalier, lately deceased, who had been one of the most distinguished navigators under Prince Henry, and had colonized and governed the Island of Porto Santo. The acquaintance soon ripened into attachment, and ended in marriage. It appears to have been a match of mere affection, as the lady was destitute of fortune. There were two sons born, Diego and Fernando.

17. What part of United States territory was most recently acquired?

The Island of San Juan, near Vancouver's Island, was evacuated by England at the close of November, 1873. The Emperor of Germany, acting as arbitrator, decided the question of ownership in favor of the United States. The settlement was agreed upon at the Geneva Congress.

18. When and what was the first telegraphic message sent?

In May, 1844, by Samuel Finley Breese Morse, LL. D. The message transmitted by him from Washington to Baltimore, at the suggestion of Miss Annie Ellsworth, was the expressive scripture, "What hath God wrought!"

19. What mistake has Longfellow made in his *Hymn of the Moravian Nuns of Bethlehem?*

In the last two lines the poem reads: —

> "The warrior took that banner proud,
> And it was his martial cloak and shroud."

Now, it is true that the Moravian Sisters at Bethlehem,

Pennsylvania, in 1778, presented a small but elaborately wrought banner to Count Pulaski, but it is not true that it "was his martial cloak and shroud." Count Pulaski was mortally wounded while at the head of the French and American cavalry at the siege of Savannah, October 9, 1779, and he died on board the United States brig Wasp, on the 11th, and was buried beneath the waters of the Savannah River. The original banner was rescued by a lieutenant and carried to Baltimore where it is now carefully kept in a glass case by the Maryland Historical Society, and may be seen by any one visiting their rooms, at the corner of Saratoga and St. Paul Streets. Lafayette laid the corner-stone of the Pulaski Monument, in 1824, erected by the people of Georgia.

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20. What was Pulaski's Banner?

It is said that the banner was of crimson silk, but no crimson tint now remains, having faded to a dingy brown. The green-shaded yellow silk wreaths and letters are better preserved. In size it is about a foot and two-thirds square, or less than a third of a square yard. The inscription on one side is a monogram U. S., surrounded by the Latin motto "*Unita virtus forcior*" — should be "*fortior*" — implying that "united valor is stronger," and on the other side, an Eye in an equilateral triangle, encircled by thirteen stars, with the words "*Non alius regit*" ("No other one rules"). This precious oriflamme was unfurled to the breeze on the occasion of Lafayette's visit to Baltimore in 1824.

21. What was known as the "Bay of St. Mary"?

Between 1528 and 1540, a Spanish navigator discovered the Chesapeake, which was marked on Spanish maps as the Bay of St. Mary. The entrance was described by

Oviedo as between 36° 40′ and 37°, and two rivers were described as tributaries. If, as is probable, they were the York and the James, the former was called "Salt River" and the latter the river of the "Holy Ghost."

22. What is meant by "carat weight"?

The art of cutting and polishing diamonds was unknown till 1456, when it was discovered by Louis Berquen, of Bruges. In speaking of the size of diamonds the term *carat* is used. This is the name of a bean, which was used in its dried state by the natives of Africa in weighing gold, and in India in weighing diamonds. Though the bean is not used for this purpose now, the name is retained, and the carat is nearly four grains Troy.

23. What is "fool's gold"?

Bisulphide of iron, commonly known as iron pyrites.

24. To what is the term "bort" applied?

Diamonds that can not be worked are sold under the name of *bort*, for various uses. Splinters of bort are made into fine drills for drilling artificial teeth and gems of various kinds.

25. Why are bricks red?

Bricks and common pottery-ware owe their red color to the iron naturally contained in the clay of which they are formed, the iron, by the action of heat, being converted into the red oxide of iron. Some varieties of clay, like that found near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, contain little or no iron, and the bricks made from it are consequently of light-yellow color.

26. How could a slave in Brazil gain his freedom?

At present they are undergoing a gradual process of emancipation; but, formerly, the negro who was so fortunate as to find a diamond weighing seventeen and one-half carats, gained a boon which is above the price of gems — the boon of liberty.

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27. Where is the famous Stone Mountain?

In De Kalb County, Georgia. It is a huge mass of granite rising almost perpendicularly several hundred feet above the surrounding country.

28. What is the difference between stalactites and stalagmites?

Water charged with carbonate of lime and carbonic acid falls in drops from the roof and sides of the cavern; but each drop, before falling, remains suspended for a time, during which it loses, by evaporation, both water and carbonic-acid gas, and its solvent power being thus diminished, a minute portion of solid carbonate of lime is deposited. The same drop also deposits another minute portion of calcareous matter on the spot upon which it falls, and as the drops collect on nearly the same spot for a long period of time, a dependent mass like an icicle is formed from the roof of the cavern — the *stalactite;* while another incrustation gradually rises up from the floor beneath — the *stalagmite.* In the process of time the two may meet, and thus form a continuous column.

29. What is the weight of the largest lump of gold?

The largest lump that has yet been obtained was from California. It furnished one hundred and nine pounds and

four ounces of pure gold. The first piece of gold found in California weighed fifty cents and the second five dollars. Since that time one nugget worth $43,000, two $21,000, one $10,000, two $8,000, one $6,000, four $5,000, twelve worth from $2,000 to $4,000, and eighteen from $1,000 to $3,000, have been found and recorded in the history of the State. In addition to the above, numberless nuggets worth from $100 to $500 are mentioned in the annals of California gold-mining during the past twenty years. The first two referred to were exchanged for bread, and all trace of them was lost. The finder of one of the $8,000 pieces became insane the following day, and was confined in the hospital at Stockton.

30. Who is the possessor of the largest diamond?

The heirs of the Great Mogul. It weighed, originally, 900 carats, or 2,769 grains, but it was reduced by cutting to 861 grains. It is of the size of half a hen's egg, and is in that form. The Pitt or Regent Diamond weighs 419 grains. The famous Koh-i-noor ("mountain of light") weighed, originally, 186 carats, but was reduced one third by recutting.

31. How can the common error of mistaking limestone for gypsum be avoided?

By simply testing the substance with acid. A drop will occasion an effervescence, showing that it is carbonate, and not sulphate, of lime, the acid taking the lime to itself, and setting free the carbonic-acid gas.

32. What are the "three vitriols"?

The green vitriol (sulphate of iron), the blue (sulphate of copper), and the white (sulphate of zinc).

33. Where is there a Lake of Pitch?

In the Island of Trinidad. It is about a mile and a half in circumference, and while the asphaltum near the shores is sufficiently hard at most seasons to sustain men and quadrupeds, it grows soft and warm as you go toward the center, and there it is in a boiling state.

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34. What is the meaning of "Amethyst"?

"A preservative from intoxication"; and was given it from a belief of the ancient Persians, that wine drunk from goblets made of this mineral lost its inebriating properties.

35. When were Indians scalped by white men?

On February 20, 1725, a party of New Hampshire volunteers, while hunting for Indians, discovered a party of ten encamped for the night around a fire. Advancing cautiously at midnight, the enemy were found asleep and the whole number shot. They were marching from Canada well furnished with new guns and ammunition, and a number of spare blankets, moccasins, and snowshoes, for the accommodation of the prisoners they expected to take, and were within two miles of the frontier. The party entered Dover in triumph, with the ten scalps stretched on hoops and elevated on poles; they received a bounty of £100 for each scalp, at Boston, out of the public treasury.

36. What is the history of the "Orloff Diamond"?

This precious stone, purchased for the Empress Catharine II. of Russia (died November 7, 1796), is about the size of a pigeon's egg, and weighs 195 carats. It is said to have formed the eye of a famous idol in a temple of Brahma at Pondicherry. A French deserter robbed the pagoda of this

valuable stone. After passing through the hands of various purchasers, it came into the possession of a Greek merchant, who received for it from the Empress $450,000, an annuity of $20,000, and a title of nobility.

Another story is that it belonged to Nadir Shah of Persia, and, after his murder, came into the possession of an Armenian merchant who brought it to Amsterdam; afterwards it was sold, in 1772, to Count Orloff for the Empress Catherine.

37. What period of American history was called the "era of good feeling"?

During the administration of President Monroe and more especially while serving his first term from 1817 to 1821. The phrase was also "common parlance" in 1875–76.

38. What Queen of England twice set a price on the head of her brother?

"Good" Queen Anne (1664–1714). Her brother was known as James, the Chevalier St. George.

39. Do fishes sing?

Naturalists have generally accepted Cuvier's view, that the existence of fishes is a silent, emotionless, and joyless one, but recent observations tend to show that many fishes *emit vocal sounds.*

40. What fishes build nests?

The Sticklebacks. The species of stickleback are all natives of fresh water with one or two exceptions. They are found in the Ottawa River, while the marine species have lately been discovered among the weeds of the Saragasso Sea.

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41. Where are climbing fishes found?

The *Anabas scandens*, the climbing perch of India, quits the water and wanders over banks, for a considerable distance, and is said even to climb trees and bushes.

42. Where may be seen the strange spectacle of fish and shell-fish dwelling high on lofty trees?

At Tranquebar, Hindoostan, where the perch climbs up tall fan-palms, in pursuit of certain shell-fish which forms its favorite food. Covered with viscid slime, he glides smoothly over the rough bark; spines, which he may sheathe and unfold at will, serve him like hands to hang by, and with the aid of side fins and a powerful tail he pushes himself upward.

43. What famous sword was captured by John Brown?

The one presented by the renowned Frederick the Great (born 1712) just previous to his death August 17, 1786, to George Washington (1732–1799), on the golden scabbard of which was the following inscription: "*Ab duce maximo natu in Europa ad maximum ducem in orbe terrarum*" — "From the oldest general in Europe to the greatest general in the world." This sword was taken from the arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859, but is now in the possession of the Washington Family.

44. What were the sayings of the Seven Wise Men?

These seven famous mottoes were inscribed in the temple of Apollo at Delphi. Solon of Athens — "*Know thyself.*" Chilo of Sparta — "*Consider the end.*" Thales of Miletus —

"*Suretyship is the precursor of ruin.*" Bias of Priene—"*Most men are bad.*" Cleobulus of Lindus—"*Avoid excess.*" Pittacus of Mitylene—"*Know thy opportunity*"—Periander of Corinth—"*Nothing is impossible to industry.*" But there are many variations of these proverbial expressions, as the ancients do not agree in their accounts of these sages (who lived five and six hundred years before Christ), their lives, or their sayings. Those given above have the best authority.

45. What is meant by the "Golden Number"?

The cycle of nineteen years, or the number which shows the years of the moon's cycle; its invention is ascribed to Meton of Athens, about 432 B. C. To find the golden number or year of the lunar cycle, add one to the date and divide by nineteen, then the quotient is the number of cycles since the Christian era and the remainder is the golden number. The golden number for 1883 is 3.

46. What people have only 355 days for a year?

The Mohammedans. The Era of the Hegira dates from the flight of Mohammed, on the night of Thursday, the 15th of July, 622. The era commences on the 16th. With them the year 1300 begins November 12, 1882.

47. When was the "Wandering Jew" last seen?

January 1, 1644, Michob Ader, calling himself the Wandering Jew, appeared at Paris, where he created an extraordinary sensation among all ranks. He pretended to have lived sixteen hundred years, and that he had travelled through all regions of the world. He was visited by the *literati* of the city, and no one could accost him in a language of which he was ignorant. He was also familiar with the

history of persons and events from the time of Christ, so that he was never confounded by any amount of cross-questioning, but replied readily and without embarrassment. Of course he claimed an acquaintance with all the celebrated characters of the previous sixteen centuries. He said of himself that he was usher of the Court of Judgment in Jerusalem, where all criminal cases were tried at the time of our Saviour; that his name was Michob Ader; and that for thrusting Jesus out of the hall with these words: "Go, why tarriest thou?" the Messiah answered him: "I go, but tarry thou till I come"; thereby condemning him to live till the day of judgment. The learned looked upon him as an impostor or a madman, yet took their departure bewildered and astonished.

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48. Who were the "Seven Sleepers"?

Seven noble youths of Ephesus, who fled, in the Decian persecution, to a cave, and were walled in. They fell asleep for two centuries, when their bodies were found and taken to Marseilles in a large stone coffin, still shown in Victor's Church. Their names are Constantine, Dionysius, John, Maximian, Malchus, Martinian, and Serapion. This fable took its rise from a misapprehension of the words, "They fell *asleep* in the Lord," — that is, *died*.

49. What are "cuttle-fish" bones?

The substance is not a "bone," nor derived from a true "fish." It is simply the rudimentary shell of a mollusk. The cuttle-fish of our own shores is a harmless animal, only ten or twelve inches long; but the one frequenting the African seas attains a formidable size. This is the "devil-fish" so graphically described by Victor Hugo. (Born at Besançon, France, 1802.)

50. Who was King Cophetua?

An imaginary African monarch, of whom the legendary ballads told that he fell in love with a beggar-maid, and married her. The song is extant in Percy's *Reliques*, and is several times alluded to by Shakespeare (1564–1616) and others. A modernized version of the story is given by Tennyson in his poem entitled *The Beggar-Maid*.

51. What is a frequent quotation from the *Travels of Gulliver?*

"Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together." Strange to say, this truism has been popularly attributed to Lord Palmerston, who lived a century and a half after Swift [Jonathan] — (1667–1745).

52. Which mountains are the newest?

The highest ones. This is easily understood when we remember that all mountains and mountain chains are the result of upheavals, and that the violence of the outbreak must have been in proportion to the strength of the resistance. When the crust of the earth was so thin that the heated masses within easily broke through it, they were not thrown to so great a height, and formed comparatively low elevations, such as the Canadian Hills or the mountains of Bretagne and Wales. But in later times, when young, vigorous giants, such as the Alps, the Himalayas, or, later still, the Rocky Mountains, forced their way out from their fiery prison-house, the crust of the earth was much thicker, and fearful indeed must have been the convulsions which attended their exit.

53. Who was Blue-beard?

The hero of a well-known story of the same name, originally written in French by Charles Perrault. It is said that the original *Blue-beard* was Giles de Laval, Lord of Raiz, who was made Marshal of France in 1429. He was distinguished for his military genius and intrepidity, and was possessed of princely revenues, but rendered himself infamous by the murder of his wives, and his extraordinary impiety and debaucheries. At length, for some state crime against the Duke of Brittany, he was sentenced to be burned alive in a field at Nantes, in 1440. Bluebeard is also the name by which King Henry VIII. lives in the popular superstitions of England.

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54. Who was the British spy detected in carrying a message to General Burgoyne in a hollow silver bullet?

Major Daniel Taylor of the English army. The note read as follows: —

FORT MONTGOMERY, October 8, 1777.

"Nous y voici" [we come] and nothing now between us and Gates. I sincerely hope this little success of ours may facilitate your operations. In answer to your letter of September 28, by C. C.,* I shall only say, I can not presume to order, or even advise, for reasons obvious. I heartily wish you success. Faithfully yours,

H. CLINTON.

GENERAL BURGOYNE.

A transcript of this note in the handwriting of Governor Clinton is among the manuscripts of General Gates in the library of the New York Historical Society, No. 170 Second Avenue, New York City. The identical bullet, — a curiously wrought hollow sphere, fastened together in the centre by a compound screw, — presented to the Society by General Tallmadge, was lost through the carelessness of the

* Captain Campbell.

secretary. At Hurley, a few miles from Kingston, New York, the spy was tried, condemned, and hanged upon an apple-tree near the old church, while the village of Esopus was in flames, lighted by the marauding enemy.

55. What is the most noted "dinner-party" on record?

That of twenty-one scientific men, who, at the invitation of Dr. Hawkins, once took dinner within the restored body of the *iguanodon*. On that occasion Dr. Owen, the celebrated geologist, sat in the head for brains.

56. The waters of what river can be detected three hundred miles at sea?

The Amazon, which is so charged with sediment that its waters can readily be detected by their discoloration this distance from its mouth.

57. Where is the "Devil's Pulpit"?

At Bedford, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. A channel, which has been cut in the solid rock, is seventy or eighty feet deep, and from twenty to thirty wide. At the head of the channel there is a large pool of water. In other parts, the bottom is filled with rubbish through which, in one place, a pole may be passed down twenty or thirty feet.

58. How old are Niagara Falls?

Niagara River has cut a channel through the solid rocks, two hundred feet deep, twelve hundred to two thousand feet wide, and seven miles long. The evidence is conclusive that the Falls were formerly at Queenstown, seven miles

below their present situation. It has been shown that they have not receded more than one foot a year for the last half century. If this has been the rate of retrocession for the whole distance, — and on account of the nature of the rocks there is no reason for supposing it greater, — it has required thirty-six thousand years for that great excavation.

59. Who were the only two of the children of Israel that reached the Land of Canaan?

"Joshua, the son of Nun;
Caleb, the son of Jephunneh;
Were the only two
Who ever got through
To the land of milk and honey."

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60. What was the first commercial transaction?

Abraham's purchase of the Cave of Machpelah for four hundred shekels.

61. When did a pine log cause the surrender of a British force?

At Rugeley's Mill, in Kershaw County, South Carolina, the Tory commander, Colonel Rugeley, had assembled a considerable force, and fortified his log-barn and dwelling-house. In the latter part of June, 1780, Colonel Washington, who, by order of General Morgan, had pursued him with his cavalry, arrived, and having no artillery resorted to an ingenious stratagem to capture the post without sacrificing his own men. Accordingly he mounted a *pine log*, fashioned as a cannon, elevated on its own limbs, and placed it in position to command the houses in which the Tories were lodged. Colonel Washington then made a

formal demand for immediate surrender. Colonel Rugeley fearing the destructive consequences of the formidable cannon bearing upon his command in the log-barn and dwelling-house, after a stipulation as to terms, promptly surrendered his whole force, consisting of one hundred and twelve men, without a gun being fired on either side.

62. What were the "Mecklenberg Resolutions"?

A Declaration of Independence passed by the convention assembled in Charlotte, May 19 and 20, 1775, by which the citizens of Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, *dissolved the political bands which had connected them to the mother country*. The resolutions were read from the steps of the old Court House, on May 20, by Colonel Thomas Polk, and delivered into the hands of the North Carolina Delegation at Philadelphia by Captain James Jack, who made the journey on horseback.

63. What was the assumed name of Benedict Arnold?

In his correspondence with Clinton and André, he wrote in a disguised hand, clothing his meaning in the ambiguous style of a commercial correspondent, and affixed to his letters the signature of GUSTAVUS. André signed his, JOHN ANDERSON.

64. What animal never sleeps?

Ants never sleep. Emerson mentions this as "a recently observed fact."

65. Who was born in Europe, died in Asia, and was buried in Africa?

Alexander the Great. (356–June 28, 323 B. C.) Sixty-four *white* mules, richly caparisoned with ornaments of gold and

costly plumes, drew the immense car, with its throne and golden sarcophagus containing his remains, from the Euphrates to the Nile. No funeral pageant has ever equaled that of this mighty conqueror, which, after two years' preparation, went this distance of a thousand miles.

66. What is a Gordian Knot?

A great difficulty. Gordius, a peasant, being chosen king of Phrygia, dedicated his wagon to Jupiter, and fastened the yoke to a beam so ingeniously that no one could untie it. Alexander the Great was told that "whoever undid the knot would reign over the whole East." "Well, then," said the conqueror, "it is thus I perform the task"; and so saying, he cut the knot in twain with his sword. 330 B. C.

67. What was the Herculean Knot?

A snaky complication on the rod or caduceus of Mercury, adopted by the Grecian brides as the fastening of their woolen girdles, which only the bridegroom was allowed to untie when the bride retired for the night.

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68. What is the Cyprinodon?

The sightless fish which gropes in the dreary waters of the River Styx, in the Mammoth Cave, of Kentucky. Of what service would eyes be where absolute darkness reigns! It is of a milk-white color.

69. Why do sea-shells give a murmuring noise when held to the ear?

The usual explanation of the "roar of the sea" in shells is that the form of the shell and its polished surface collect and reflect sounds in the air, otherwise imperceptible. Another theory refers the murmur to the circulation of the

blood through the capillaries of the fingers holding the shell, by which the vibrations are magnified. A feeble murmur can be heard, however, when the shell rests on a table, and it is probable that both causes are concerned in the phenomenon. The cone of the Southern pine presents to fancy's ear the lamenting moan of "the imprisoned spirits of all the winds that blow."

70. Who was the first proposer of Secession in the United States Congress?

Josiah Quincy, of Massachusetts, in 1811, said, in the United States Congress, that, if Louisiana were admitted into the Union, "it will be the right of all and the duty of some [of the States] definitely to prepare for a separation; amicably, if they can, violently, if they must." Mr. Poindexter, of Mississippi, called him to order, as did the Speaker of the House; but, on appeal, the Speaker's decision was reversed, and Mr. Quincy sustained by a vote of fifty-three ayes to fifty-six noes, on the point of order.

71. What is the origin of the term "Yankee"?

The word *Yankee* is believed to have been derived from the manner in which the Indians endeavored to pronounce the word *English*, which they rendered *Yenghees*, whence the word *Yankee*. The statement in Irving's *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, concerning the tribe of *Yankoos*, is a mere joke. The word Yankee undoubtedly had the *Yenghees* origin referred to above, but it does not seem to have been very common until the time of the Revolutionary War. It is not seen in any writings previous to that time; and in letters in which the word occurs, written in 1775, it is referred to in a manner which shows that the writer considered it something new, and intended to be contempt-

uous, used as it was by their then enemies, the British soldiers. In a curious book on the *Round Towers of Ireland*, the origin of the term Yankee-doodle was traced to the Persian phrase, "Yanki dooniah," or "Inhabitants of the New World." Layard, in his book on *Nineveh and its Remains*, also mentions "Yanghidunia" as the Persian name of America.

72. What animal was a curious intermediate link between birds and reptiles?

The Ramphorhyncus, the remains of which have been found in the quarries of Solenhofen, Germany. Its tail, a singular appendage, was long, reptile-like, and dragged upon the ground, while its footprints were bird-like,

73. What was the highest price ever paid for any bird?

The fossil bird of Solenhofen, the Ramphorhyncus (usually called the Archæopteryx), was sold to Dr. Folger for the Museum of the "Freie Deutsche Hochstift" for $9,000. This bird lived fully fifty million years ago.

74. What people believed an elephant stood upon a huge tortoise and upheld the earth?

The Hindoos.

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75. What is meant by "giving the lie"?

The great affront of "giving the lie" arose from the phrase "Thou liest," in the oath taken by the defendant in judicial combats before engaging, when charged with any crime by the plaintiff; and Francis I. of France (1494–1547),

to make current his giving the lie to the Emperor Charles V. (died 1558), in 1521, first stamped it with infamy by saying, in a solemn assembly, that "he was no honest man that would bear the lie."

76. What are Chronograms?

A species of false wit. A medal that was struck of Gustavus Adolphus had the motto:—

"ChrIstVs DvX; ergo trIVMphVs"; that is, "Christus dux ergo triumphus." Pick the figures out of the several words, and arrange them in their proper order. They are MDCXVVVII, or 1627: the year in which the medal was stamped. Two Vs are used for X, or XVV equals XX. The banks of the Rhine furnish abundant examples of this literary pleasantry; chronograms are as thick as blackberries.

77. What is the meaning of "brown study"?

A corruption of brow-study; brow being derived from the old German, "braun," in its compound form "aug-braun," an eye-brow.

78. What is "Pele's hair"?

As the lava from volcanoes is thrown into the air, the wind often spins it into fine threads of great length. Large quantities of this are found at Kilauea, Hawaii, Sandwich Islands, where it is called by this name.

79. Where was Resina?

It was a town that had been built over Herculaneum and was destroyed by an eruption from Vesuvius in 1631. Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabiae were buried from

human view by the first recorded eruption of Vesuvius, which took place in the year 79. The former city, which was buried to the depth of about one hundred feet, was discovered in 1713 by some workmen engaged in sinking a well, who were arrested in their progress by striking upon the theatre. Pompeii, although covered above the houses less than twenty feet deep, was not discovered till 1750. It was at Stabiae, after having just left the villa of his friend Pomponianus, that the elder Pliny fell a victim to his ardent curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

80. Who told Caesar to "beware of the ides of March"?

Spurinna, an astrologer. As Cæsar went to the senate-house on the morning of the *ides*, the 15th (44 B. C.), he said to Spurinna: "The *ides* are at last come." "Yes," replied the astrologer, "but not yet past." Cæsar was assassinated a short time after. Calphurnia, the wife of Cæsar, also begged her husband to remain at home during the day.

81. What is the meaning of *Manhattan?*

John Verrazanni, an eminent Florentine navigator, in 1524, landed where the lower extremity of New York City is, and giving the natives some spirituous liquors made many of them drunk. The Indians called the place *Manna-ha-ta*, or "place of drunkenness," and they were afterwards called *Manna-ha-tans.*

82. What was the name of Henry Hudson's vessel?

The *Half-Moon*, a yacht of eighty tons. Hudson, while on another voyage in search of a northwest passage, discovered the great Bay in the northern regions which bears

his name. He was there frozen in the ice during the winter of 1610–11. While endeavoring to make his way homeward in the spring, his crew became mutinous. They finally seized Hudson, bound his arms, and placing him, his son, and seven sick companions in an open boat, without oars or food, set them adrift upon the cold waters. Two ships were afterwards sent from England to make search for him, but no tidings of the bold navigator could ever be gained. His dreadful fate can only be imagined.

83. What is meant by the "Song of the Sirens"?

The Sirens were two maidens celebrated in fable, who occupied an island of *Ocean* (Mediterranean Sea), where they sat in a mead close to the seashore, and with their melodious voices so charmed those that were sailing by, that they forgot home and everything relating to it, and abode with these maidens till they perished from the impossibility of taking nourishment, and their bones lay whitening on the strand.

84. How did Ulysses escape from the Sirens?

As he and his companions were on their homeward voyage from Æaea, they came first to the island of the Sirens. They passed this in safety, for, by the direction of Circe, Ulysses stopped the ears of his companions with wax, and had himself tied to the mast, so that, although, when he heard the song of the Sirens, he made signs to his companions to unbind him, they only secured him the more closely; and thus he listened to the accents of the Sirens, and yet, notwithstanding, escaped.

85. Why has the northern boundary of Delaware a circular form?

After William Penn (1644–1718) had obtained a grant of Pennsylvania, being desirous of owning the land on the west bank of the Delaware to the sea, he procured from the Duke of York, in 1682, a release of all his title and claim to New Castle and *twelve miles* around it, and to the land between this tract and the sea. A line that was the arc of a circle of a twelve miles radius was then run from New Castle as a centre. When the "three lower counties on the Delaware" became a State, they retained this boundary.

86. What bet was lost by Queen Elizabeth?

In the wager between her and Sir Walter Raleigh (1552–1618), the latter assured her that he could tell the exact weight of smoke in any quantity of tobacco consumed, a fact which the incredulous Queen doubted. Weighing his tobacco, Raleigh smoked it, and then carefully weighing the ashes, stated the difference. Elizabeth (1533–1603) remarked, while paying the bet, that she "had before heard of turning gold to smoke, but he was the first who had turned smoke into gold."

87. Can we stop, while living, the movements of the heart?

The will can not check the heart, though a notable exception to this is the case of Colonel Townsend, of Dublin, who, after having succeeded several times in stopping the pulsation, at last lost his life in the act.

88. Why is salt used in freezing ice-cream? On the contrary, it is used in thawing out a pump.

The melting of salt and ice requires from some source what used to be called the "140 degrees of caloric of

fluidity." When solids become liquid they must have the heat necessary for the liquid condition, and in freezing ice-cream they get it from the cream, which is cooled down to the congelation point. Affinity of salt for ice promotes that action. It does the same in the pump, but the *salt water* resulting does not congeal at the coldest point produced by the melting, and hence may be pumped out from the "thawed pump."

89. Where is Titan's Pier?

It is the columnar structure of greenstone of Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts, where it slopes beneath the waters of the Connecticut.

90. Where is the "poor man's region"?

In the Pine Barrens of the Southern States, a belt of country more than seventeen hundred miles long, and often one hundred and seventy miles broad, stretching from Richmond, Virginia, along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, to beyond the western line of Louisiana. The soil is sandy, and the principal tree is the long-leaf pine. These forests, while affording a valuable article of lumber, also yield pitch, tar, and turpentine.

91. What are "Rock cities"?

The beginning of that period of time known in geology as the *carboniferous*, commenced by the formation of a conglomerate sandstone, the Millstone Grit, whose ledges often separated into huge blocks. Where a portion has been swept away during subsequent geologic changes, the remains present a striking resemblance to the streets and blocks of a ruined city. Several of these formations are situated in southwestern New York.

92. How was Pocahontas captured?

Through the contrivance of an Indian named Japazaws (an old friend of Captain John Smith) in 1613, to whom Captain Argall gave a copper kettle for his treachery in persuading Pocahontas on board Argall's ship in the Potomac river.

93. By what three princesses was Captain John Smith's life saved?

By Tragabigzanda, the lady of Turkish harem; Callamata, the lady of Hungary, and Pocahontas (1595–1616), the young daughter of the Indian chief Powhatan, who threw herself between him and her father's anger.

94. What are "coprolites"?

The fossil excrements of the Ichthyosaurus, which, when polished (for they are as hard as marble), are sold as jewelry under the name of "beetle-stones."

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95. Where are the Falls of Tequendama?

Near Bogota, United States of Colombia, South America, where the river Bogota rushes through a cleft thirty-six feet wide, and falls about six hundred feet into a rocky chasm. Near these is the natural bridge of *Icononzo*, which is more than three hundred feet high.

96. What city is built on an island of the same name?

Cayenne, in French Guiana, South America. It is noted for its exports of pungent red pepper, — not true pepper, but a kind of capsicum; that is, a plant producing fruit in the form of pods, or capsules, containing berries.

97. What is the capital of Finland?

Helsingfors, the approach to which is commanded by the batteries of Sveaborg, built on seven islands.

98. What are the "Seven Senses"?

According to very ancient teaching, the soul of man, or his "inward holy body," is compounded of the seven properties which are under the influence of the planets. From these are derived the seven senses which are *animation*, *feeling*, *speech*, *taste*, *sight*, *hearing*, and *smelling*.

99. How did the "Jews-harp" get its name?

It is said by several authors to derive its name from the nation of the Jews, and is commonly believed to be one of their instruments of music. But no such musical instrument is spoken of by any of the old authors that treat of the Jewish music. Its present orthography is nothing more than a corruption of the French *Jeu-trompe*, literally, a toy trumpet. It is called *Jeu-trompe* by Bacon (1561–1626), *Jew-trump* by Beaumont (1586–1615) and Fletcher (1576–1625), and *Jews-harp* by Hackluyt (1553–1616). Another etymon for *Jews-harp* is *Jaws-harp*, because the place where it is played upon is between the jaws.

100. Who was the "Scottish Solomon"?

James VI., afterwards James I. (died 1625), of England. In connection with him there is a curious story of one Geilles Duncan (a servant-girl), a noted performer on the "Jews-harp," whose performances seem not only to have met with the approval of a numerous audience of withes (plebeians, peasants, and laborers), but to have been repeated in the presence of King James by command of that royal personage.

101. What quotation frequently attributed to Shakespeare really belongs to Gray?

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The lines: —

"Where ignorance is bliss
'T is folly to be wise,"

found in the tenth stanza of *On a distant prospect of Eton College.*

102. What is a Cento?

In poetry it is a work wholly composed of verses or passages taken from other authors and disposed in a new form or order, so as to compose a new work and a new meaning.

'T was in the prime of summer time, *Hood.*
She blessed me with her hand; *Hoyt.*
We strayed together, deeply blest, *Mrs. Edwards.*
Into the Dreaming Land. *Cornwall.*

103. Who was "the celebrated huntsman"?

John Butler, who died in Wake County, North Carolina, January 19, 1836. He was supposed to be at least one hundred and ten years old, and left a wife surviving, equally as old.

104. What was Napoleon's celebrated remark?

It was what the French term a *bon mot;* that is, a good word or saying, and was: "From the sublime to the ridiculous there is but a step."

But he borrowed it from Tom Paine (1736–1809), whose writings were translated into French as early as 1791; Tom Paine borrowed it from Hugh Blair (1718–1800), and he took it from Longinus. The same idea is suggested in the old French proverb, "Extremes touch," and the Eng-

lish adage, "The darkest hour is nearest the dawn." Similar expressions may be found in the writings of Rochester, Butler (1612–1680), Dryden (1631–1700), and Pope (1688–1744). The sentiment owes nothing to Napoleon (1769–1821) but the sanction of his great name, and the pithy sentence in which he has embodied it.

105. Who was the mother of three kings, one emperor, and one queen?

Marie Letitia Bonaparte, born at Ajaccio, 1750. Her maiden name was Romolini, and she was considered one of the most beautiful women of Corsica. She married, in the midst of civil discord, Charles Bonaparte, an officer who fought with Paoli; was left a widow in 1785, having borne thirteen children, of whom five sons and three daughters survived their father, and became celebrated. Died February 3, 1836.

106. What remarkable acrostic has been formed from the names of the Napoleonic dynasty?

N apoleon, Emperor of the French;
I oseph, King of Spain;
H ieronymus, King of Westphalia (Jerome);
I oachim, King of Naples (Murat);
L ouis, King of Holland.

Forming the Latin word *nihil*, meaning "nothing" or "extinct."

107. When did Lord Cornwallis have his horse killed under him?

On February 1, 1781, when he passed the Catawba at M'Cowan's Ford. His passage was disputed by William Davidson, Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the North

Carolina line, and Brigadier-General of Militia, with three hundred men. Davidson was overpowered, and killed by a ball in the breast.

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108. What were the "burning spears"?

A phenomenon observed in London, January 30, 1560, being one of the earliest records of that appearance now well known by the name of aurora borealis (*northern lights*).

109. When was the first Thanksgiving?

February 22, 1630, in Massachusetts. The day had been appointed for a general fast. No ship had arrived in a great length of time, and their stock of provisions was nearly exhausted. At this critical moment, a vessel arrived from England, laden with provisions; and they immediately changed the day of public fasting into one of public feasting.

110. Why is mercury called "quicksilver"?

It is related that the mines of mercury in Mexico were discovered by a hunter, who, as he clambered up a mountain, caught hold of a shrub, which, giving way at the root, let out a stream of what he supposed was liquid silver. The rapidity with which this metal runs, occasioned by its great weight, gave to it the name of *quicksilver*.

111. When was the most destructive earthquake?

The most dreadful one on record is that which, November 1, 1755, destroyed the city of Lisbon, Portugal. The only warning the inhabitants received was a noise like subterranean thunder which, without any considerable interval, was followed by a succession of shocks which laid in ruins almost every building in the city, with a most incredible

slaughter of the inhabitants (60,000). The bed of the river Tagus was in many places raised to the surface, and vessels on the river suddenly found themselves aground. The waters of the river and the sea at first retreated, and then immediately rolled violently in upon the land, forming a wave over forty feet in elevation. To complete the destruction, a large quay, upon which great numbers of people had assembled for security, suddenly sank to such an unfathomable depth that not one body ever afterwards appeared at the surface.

112. Where is the "Valley of the Upas Tree"?

In Java. It is sometimes called the "Valley of Death," and its deadly influence was formerly ascribed to the malignant properties of a peculiar vegetable production of the island, called the "upas tree," which especially flourishes in this locality. Recent travellers, however, declare that accounts of the fatality attending a passage of this famous valley have been greatly exaggerated.

113. Where is there a river of acid water?

In Java there is a crater containing a lake strongly impregnated with sulphuric acid, a quarter of a mile long, from which a river of acid water issues, which supports no living creature, nor can fish live in the sea near its confluence.

Among the wonders of nature in Algeria there is a river of genuine ink. It is formed by the junction of two streams, one flowing from a region of ferruginous soil, and the other draining a peat swamp. The waters of the former are, of course, strongly impregnated with iron; those of the latter with gallic acid. On meeting, the acid of the one stream unites with the iron of the other, and a true ink is the result.

The banks of the united stream would be, of all places in the world, the one for a colony of authors. Fields of esparto grass, for paper-making, might be sown in the neighborhood; the paper mills might be turned by the inky flood, and geese might be reared to supply quill pens. The members of the republic of letters would there do nothing all day long but sit dangling their feet in the water, and occasionally dipping in their pens, — a peaceable crew, except, perhaps, when they would plague each other by reading long extracts from their unpublished works.

114. Why is Egypt called the "Gift of the Nile"?

Because there is very good evidence that nearly all that country has been formed from the sediment brought down by that river. The vast delta that the Nile has formed at its mouth is larger than the State of Vermont.

115. Where is Pulpit Rock?

At Nahant, Massachusetts. By the erosive action of the waves continually dashing against it year after year, the rock has been worn into the semblance of a pulpit.

116. What are "pot-holes"?

Deep wells, which are everywhere common along rapid brooks and rivers. Fine examples may be seen at Bellows Falls, Vermont, on the Connecticut, and at Amoskeag Falls on the Merrimac, and in the Big Sandy and Ohio.

117. How were Herculaneum and Pompeii destroyed?

Not by lava flowing from Vesuvius, but by other volcanic products, such as sand, ashes, cinders, and fragments of rock, though Herculaneum has subsequently been repeatedly overflowed with lava.

118. Are minerals solid?

Not necessarily. The three divisions of matter are vegetable, animal, and mineral. Then water and gases are minerals, though in the popular sense of mineral (metal), mercury is called the "liquid mineral."

119. What are the "Devil's Arrows"?

Three monstrous pillars in the North of England, erected by the Druids. The rain beating upon them for two thousand years has deeply furrowed their sides, the furrows being deepest at their summits, and becoming wider and less distinct toward the bottom.

120. What is the origin of the expression "Knocked as high as Gilderoy's kite"?

There was a robber of the name who robbed Cardinal Richelieu, and one who robbed Oliver Cromwell, and another equally famous who lived during the reign of Queen Mary. Great offenders were hung "*high*." Montrose was sentenced to hang on a gallows thirty feet high, as old Haman was raised to the height of about seventy-five feet. It is clear from old Scotch proverbs that *kite* or *kyte* meant "abdomen," and hence "body." *Vide* Webster's Dictionary. In Jameson's *Scottish Dictionary*, "kytie" means corpulent or having much body. Gilderoy's *kite* was Gilderoy's *body*, and "higher than Gilderoy's kite" was a saying for a greater eminence than Gilderoy "enjoyed" at the time of his exit from scenes terrestrial. The idea of a *paper kite*, or a *bird of prey*, is ridiculous as pertaining to Gilderoy.

121. How did the Ell English derive its name?

Ell properly means an arm; *elbow*, the bow or bend of the arm. The name was derived from the length of the king's (Henry I. of England) arm, in 1101.

122. Where is "Old Donation"?

In the county of Princess Anne, Virginia, near the Lynnhaven river is situated a colonial church known as the "Old Donation." It is fast falling to ruins; a modern structure, erected a few miles off, has superseded this hallowed fane, and it now stands, away from the public road, in lonely desolation, forsaken by all save those whose kindred sleep in the shadow of its walls; or the curious traveller occasionally seen lingering among its tombs, or waking, by his solitary footfall, the echoes of its deserted aisles.

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123. When was the Grasshopper War?

It occurred about the time the Pilgrims came to New England in the Mayflower (1620), between two Indian tribes, and arose in this way: An Indian woman, with her little son, went to visit a friend belonging to another tribe. The little boy caught a large grasshopper on the road and carried it with him. A boy from the other tribe wanted it, but he would not surrender his prize. A quarrel ensued, which soon drew the fathers and mothers into the dispute, and before long the chiefs were engaged in a war which nearly exterminated one tribe.

124. What was the name of the first ship built in America?

Adrian Block built the first ship at Manhattan Island in 1613. She was called the *Restless*. In her, he sailed through Long Island Sound and discovered Block Island.

125. Who made the first American flag?

The flag of the United States, known as the "Stars and Stripes," was formally adopted by resolution of Congress,

passed June 14, 1777. A committee of Congress calling on a Mrs. Ross, who lived in a house No. 239 Arch Street, Philadelphia, asked her if she could make a flag according to a plan they would produce. Consenting, the design for a flag of thirteen red and white stripes, alternate, with a union, blue in the field, spangled with thirteen *six-pointed* stars, was sent to her. She suggested that the stars should be made with five points, to which the committee agreed. With the aid of the young women of her shop she completed the flag so that it was ready for the approval of Congress the next day.

126. What is an "ossuary"?

A place where the bones of the dead are deposited. An ossuary has been erected and inaugurated to the memory of the French, Italian, and Austrian soldiers who fell upon the battle-field of Montebello in 1859. The inaugural ceremony was witnessed by more than twenty thousand persons.

127. What General lost his life by his devotion to the game of chess?

On the day preceding the night on which General Washington had determined to cross the Delaware (December 25, 1776) and attack the British in Trenton, an Englishman in the neighborhood despatched his son with a note to General Rahl, to warn him of the approaching danger. The General, being deeply absorbed *in a game of chess* when the note was presented, without withdrawing his attention from the game, thoughtlessly put the note into his vest pocket. After the battle next day, when the Hessian commander, mortally wounded, was brought into the house of Stacey Potts, the note was found unread in his pocket.

128. Where are the Falls of Kartern?

In British Guiana; they have a "plunge" of seven hundred and forty-one feet, and are four hundred feet wide.

129. What is an "atmosphere"?

A pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch, or, to be more exact, fourteen and seven-tenths pounds.

130. Why do soap-bubbles rise?

On account of the warm breath.

131. Where is the Land of Mud?

This is the name given to British Guiana, South America, owing to its extensive alluvial formation. It is sixty times the size of Maryland.

132. Who wrote "Maryland, my Maryland"?

James R. Randall. The song, consisting of nine verses, first appeared in *The Southern Literary Messenger*. Dr. G. W. Bagby, Editor, in January, 1862. Published in Richmond, Virginia, by Macfarlane and Fergusson. This interesting magazine, few copies of which are still in existence, was continued nearly up to the end of the war.

133. What became of the two Spartans that did not fight at Thermopylæ?

Returning home to Sparta (480 B. C.), they were met with jeers of derision and contempt. One of them, *Panites*, unable to stand the complete ostracism to which they were subjected, committed suicide; but the other, *Aristodemus*, remained passive, and under Pausanias, at the battle of

Platæa (479 B. C.), redeemed his name by acts of the greatest bravery. They had been excused by Leonidas, on the plea of sore eyes, from remaining at the Pass with the immortal three hundred. Only 298 Spartans were slain.

134. How did Xerxes count his vast army?

By enclosing them in pens. A square of soldiers, one hundred men deep, was first formed, and then stakes driven round them. The vast army, by detail, was marched in and out of this pen one hundred and eighty times, giving their commander an enumeration of his "host" amounting to one million, eight hundred thousand men. Authorities differ, however, regarding the number. The account of Herodotus is indefinite as to the whole force of Xerxes. By taking the sum of his reports, he seems to give of foot, 1,700,000; horse, 80,000; with war chariots and camels, 20,-000; naval force, 517,610, making a grand total of 2,317,610 men that passed to Doriscus; but reinforcements from Thracians, etc., swelled the number, as *inferred* from Herodotus, to 2,641,610 fighting men, before he reached Thermopylae. The attendants, slaves, crews of provision-ships, etc., according to the *supposition* of Herodotus, exceeded the fighting men, and hence the number of male persons at the noted Pass is estimated from the data of this "Father of History," by Dr. Smith and by Professor Felton, to be fully 5,283,220.

135. When was the year of "great babies"?

The year 1769, noted for the birth of Napoleon; Wellington; Francis Accum, chemist; Bessières, duc d'Istria, one of Napoleon's best generals (died 1813); Bourrienne, secretary and biographer of Napoleon; Brunel, architect of first theatre in New York, and of the Thames Tunnel (died 1849);

Châteaubriand, author (died 1848); Governor De Witt Clinton, of New York (died 1828); Cuvier, naturalist (died 1832); Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy, R. N. (died 1839); Alexander Von Humboldt, physicist (died 1860); Count Lavalette, state counsellor (died 1830); Judge Lowell, founder of Boston Athenæum; Memed Ali, pasha of Egypt (died 1848); Marshal Ney; William Owen, naturalist (died 1825); Picard, French dramatist (died 1828); Marshal Soult; Lord Castlereagh (died 1822); Tallien, French statesman. These are twenty of the best names selected from a list of noted men born in this year.

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136. What is the simplest pocket rule?

The "change" you may have in your pocket, as the silver quarter measures three fourths of an inch in diameter; the half dollar one inch, and the "dollar of our daddies" one inch and a half.

137. When did an eclipse of the moon cause the defeat of an army?

The Athenians were defeated at Syracuse in the year 413 (August 27) B. C. Nicias, the commander, was preparing to withdraw his forces when the eclipse occurred, and considering it an omen, he consulted the soothsayers, who said the army must wait three times nine days. This delay was the cause of their destruction.

138. When was Adam born?

By an Act of the English Parliament, October 23, 4004 B.C. was declared the natal day of the earth. As Adam was created on the fifth day after, he must have been born October 28, 4004 B. C.

139. What is the oldest republic in the world?

San Marino, in Italy, on the coast of the Adriatic Sea. It is, next to Monaco, the smallest State in Europe. The exact date of the establishment of this republic is not known, but according to tradition, it was in the fourth century, by Marinus, a Dalmatian hermit, and has ever since remained independent. It is mountainous, and contains four or five villages. The word LIBERTY is inscribed on its capitol.

140. Where is the key of the Bastile?

Hanging in the entrance hall of Mount Vernon is the key, sent to Washington by Lafayette soon after the destruction of that noted stronghold by the Paris mob, on July 14, 1789.

141. When was the first naval battle?

That of Salamis, fought 480 B. C. In this battle the Halicarnassian queen, Artemesia, commanded a vessel and, pursued by a Greek ship, used her famous stratagem of attacking and sinking a vessel of the Carian prince (though probably by mistake). Xerxes thinking she had sunk a vessel of the Greeks, exclaimed: "My men are become women; my women, men!" There had been a few "skirmishes" of ships before, but the first naval battle proper was that of Salamis.

142. Who was Eucles?

The "runner" from the plains of Marathon, who brought the news of the successful issue of that battle to the anxious Senate waiting at Athens, and crying, "Χαίπετε! χαίπομεν" ("Rejoice! [for] we rejoice!"), fell dead at their feet.

143. What is the oldest poem in existence?

The Song of Miriam. See Exodus xv. 21. "And Miriam

answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

144. What was Bibliomancy?

Divination by the Bible, which became so common in the fifth century that several councils were obliged expressly to forbid it, as injurious to religion and savoring of idolatry. These "Sacred Lots" consisted in suddenly opening, or dipping into, the Bible, and regarding the passage that first presented itself to the eye as predicting the future lot of the inquirer.

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145. What is the origin of texts?

The custom of taking a text as the basis of a sermon originated with Ezra, who, we are told, accompanied by several Levites in a public congregation of men and women, ascended a pulpit, opened the book of the law, and after addressing a prayer to the Deity, to which the people said Amen, "read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." (Neh. viii. 8.)

146. What is the origin of the saying, "Mind your Ps and Qs"?

In ale-houses, in the olden time, when chalk "scores" were marked upon the wall, or behind the door of the tap-room, it was customary to put the initials "P" and "Q" at the head of every man's account, to show the number of "pints" and "quarts" for which he was in arrears; and we may presume many a friendly rustic to have tapped his neighbor on the shoulder, when he was indulging too freely in his potations, and to have exclaimed, as he pointed to the

chalk score, "Mind your Ps and Qs, man!" Other explanations are given of the origin of this phrase, however; one writer supposing that it came from "Mind your toupées and your queues," the "toupée" being the artificial locks of hair on the head, and the "queue" the pigtail of olden time. Charles Knight thinks it was derived from the school-room or the printing-office, as the forms of the small "p" and "q," in the Roman type, have always been puzzling to the child and the printer's apprentice from the fact that in one the downward stroke is on the left of the oval, and in the other on the right; this, then, is a literal signification.

147. When were playing-cards invented?

About the year 1390, to divert Charles IV., then king of France, who had fallen into a melancholy mood. About this time is found in the account-book of the king's *cofferer* the following charge: "Paid for a pack of painted leaves bought for the king's amusement, three livres."

148. Who is the author of —

"For he that fights and runs away
May live to fight another day"?

These lines used by Goldsmith (1728*–1744), generally supposed to form a part of *Hudibras*, are to be found in the *Musarum Deliciæ*, 1656 — a clever collection of "witty trifles," by Sir John Mennis and Dr. James Smith. The passage, as it really stands in *Hudibras* (book iii, canto iii, verse 243), is as follows: —

"For those that fly may fight again,
Which he can never do that's slain."

An earlier authority may be found in the *Apopthegmes* of

* Determined.

Nicholas Udall, 1542. On folio 239, occurs the following: —

"That same man, that renneth awaie,
Maie again fight, another daie."

A similar expression is found in much older writers. Menage observes, in speaking of Monsieur Perier's abuse of Horace for running away from the battle of Philippi, "Relictâ non bene parmula," "Mais je le pardonne, parce qu'il ne sait peut-être pas que les Grecs ont dit en faveur des *Fuiars*."

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149. When did women vote?

Single women who were freeholders voted in the State of New Jersey as late as the year 1800. In a newspaper of that date is a complimentary editorial to the female voters for having unanimously supported John Adams (the defeated candidate) for President of the United States, in opposition to Thomas Jefferson, who was denounced as wanting in religion.

150. What was the origin of the expression, "sub rosa"?

A great many explanations are given: —

I. "The expression 'under the rose' took its origin," says Jenoway, "from the wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster. The parties respectively swore by the red or the white rose, and these opposite emblems were displayed as the *signs of two taverns;* one of which was by the side of, and the other opposite to, the Parliament House in Old Palace Yard, Westminster. Here the retainers and servants of the noblemen attached to the Duke of York and Henry VI. used to meet. Here, also, as disturbances were frequent, measures either of defence or annoyance were taken, and every transaction was said to be done

'under the rose'; by which expression the most profound secrecy was implied."

II. According to others, this term originated in the fable of Cupid giving the rose to Harpocrates, the god of silence, as a bribe to prevent him betraying the amours of Venus, and was hence adopted as the emblem of silence. The rose was for this reason frequently sculptured on the ceilings of drinking and feasting rooms, as a warning to the guests that what was said in moments of conviviality should not be repeated; from which, what was intended to be kept secret was said to be held "under the rose."

III. Roses were consecrated as presents from the Pope. In 1526 they were placed over the goals of confessionals as the symbols of secrecy. Hence the origin of the phrase "under the rose."

IV. The origin of the phrase *under the rose* implies secrecy, and had its origin during the year 477 B.C., at which time Pausanias, the commander of the confederate fleet of the Spartans and Athenians, was engaged in an intrigue with Xerxes for the subjugation of Greece to the Persian rule, and for the hand of the monarch's daughter in marriage. Their negotiations were carried on in a building attached to the Temple of Minerva, called the Brazen House, the roof of which was a garden forming a bower of roses; so that the plot, which was conducted with the utmost secrecy, was literally matured *under the rose*. Pausanias, however, was betrayed by one of his emissaries, who, by a preconcerted plan with the ephori (the overseers and counsellors of state, five in number), gave them a secret opportunity to hear from the lips of Pausanias himself the acknowledgment of his treason. To escape arrest, he fled to the Temple of Minerva, and, as the sanctity of the place forbade intrusion for violence or harm of any kind, the people walled up the edifice with stones, and left him to die of starvation. His own mother laid the first stone.

It was customary among the ancient Germans, on occasions of festivity, to suspend a rose from the ceiling above the table, as a symbol that whatever was said during the feast by those present would be kept a secret among themselves.

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151. When were umbrellas first used?

Thomas Coryat, in his *Crudities*, vol. i, p. 134, relates a curious notice of the early use of the umbrella in Italy. References are made to this useful article in English works of 1617 and 1674, but it was probably a curiosity as late as the middle of the eighteenth century. Its use is mentioned in Paris, in a letter written by General Wolfe from there, in 1752. The introduction of this article of general convenience is attributed to Jonas Hanway (died 1786), the Eastern traveller, who, on his return to his native land, rendered himself justly celebrated by his practical benevolence.

152. When was the polka first danced?

The description of the *lavolta* in Sir John Davies's poem on dancing, *The Orchestra* (1596), shows that it must have closely resembled the dance which we fondly boast is one of the great inventions of the nineteenth century.

153. What was "the petition of the sixteen maids"?

One presented to the Governor of the Province of South Carolina, by sixteen maids of Charleston, on March 1, 1733–4, "the day of the feast." It was as follows: —

To His Excellency Governor Johnson.

The humble petition of all the Maids who names are underwritten: —

Whereas we, the humble petitioners, are at present in a very melancholy disposition of mind, considering how all the bachelors are blindly captivated by widows, and our more youthful charms thereby neglected; the consequence of this, our request, is, that your Excellency will for the future order that no widow shall presume to marry any young man till the maids are provided for; or else to pay each of them a fine for satisfaction, for invading our liberties; and likewise a fine to be laid on all such bachelors as shall be married to widows, etc.

154. What is the letter A?

The outline of an ox's head, the two legs being the two horns. It is called in Hebrew *aleph* (an ox).

155. What was the first use of the expression "Almighty Dollar"?

Washington Irving (1789–1859) first made use of this expression, in his sketch of a *Creole Village* (1837).

156. Where did Newton see the apple fall?

The tree from which the apple fell that gave Newton (1642–1727) the hint about gravitation, stood in the garden of Mrs. Conduitt, at Woolsthorpe, England.

157. Who was the "Old Man of the Mountains"?

Hassan, Subah of Nishapour, the leader of the Assassins, was so called because he made Mount Lebanon his stronghold. This band was the terror of the world for two centuries, when it was crushed by Sultan Bibaris — A. D. 1090.

158. Where is Avernus.

A lake in Campania, so called from the belief that its sulphurous and mephitic vapors killed any bird that happened to inhale them—the word means in Greek "without birds." Poets call it the entrance to the infernal regions; hence the proverb "Facilis decensus Averni," etc.

159. What is a "baker's dozen"?

Thirteen for twelve. When a heavy penalty was inflicted for short weight, bakers used to give a surplus number of loaves, called the *inbread*, to avoid all risk of incurring the fine.

160. Is it true that "barking dogs never bite"?

Dogs in their wild state never bark; they howl, whine, and growl, but do not bark. Barking is an acquired habit, and as only domesticated dogs bark, this effort of a dog to speak is no indication of a savage temper.

161. When was the "Battle of the Spurs"?

In 1302, when the allied citizens of Ghent and Bruges won a famous victory over the chivalry of France under the walls of Courtray. After the battle more than seven hundred gilt spurs (worn by French nobles) were gathered from the field. In English history, however, the battle of Guinegate (1513) is so called "because the French *spurred* their horses to flight almost as soon as they came in sight of the English troops."

162. What was the "Battle of the Herrings"?

A *sortie* made by the men of Orleans, in 1428, during the siege of their city, for the purpose of intercepting a supply of salt herrings sent to the besiegers.

163. When was Black Monday?

Easter Monday, April 14, 1360, when Edward III., with his army, was lying before Paris, and the day was so dark with mist and hail, so bitterly cold and so windy, that many of his men and horses died. In allusion to this fatal day, the Monday after Easter holidays is called "Black Monday."

164. What was Black Thursday?

The day on which a terrible bush-fire occurred in the colony of Victoria, February 6, 1851.

165. When was Black Saturday?

On the fourth of August, 1621. It is thus called in Scotland, because a violent storm occurred at the time the Parliament was sitting to enforce episcopacy upon the people.

166. Who was "killed by kindness"?

Draco, the Athenian legislator, is said to have met with his death from his popularity, being smothered in the theatre of Ægina by the number of caps and cloaks showered on him by the spectators, in the year 590 B.C.

167. How did the word "blarney" originate?

From the historical fact that Cormuck Macarthy held the castle of Blarney in 1602, and concluded an armistice with Carew, the Lord-President, on condition of surrendering the fort to the English garrison. Day after day his Lordship looked for the fulfilment of the terms, but received nothing except protocols and soft speeches, till he became the laughing stock of Elizabeth's ministers and the dupe of the Lord of Blarney. The Blarney Stone is triangular, lowered

from the north angle of the castle, about twenty feet from the top, and he who kisses the stone is able to persuade to anything.

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168. Who were the three kings of Cologne?

They were the representatives of the three magi who came from the East to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. Tradition makes them Eastern kings, and at Cologne the names ascribed to them are Kaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

169. What is the origin of kissing the Pope's toe?

Matthew of Westminster says that it was customary, formerly, to kiss the hand of his Holiness, but that a certain woman in the eighth century not only kissed the Pope's hand, but "squeezed it." Seeing the danger to which he was exposed, the church magnate cut off his hand, and was compelled in future to offer his foot, which custom has continued to the present hour. And it is also believed by many that the hand cut off so many years ago is yet on exhibition at Rome, preserved in its original state of flesh and blood, free from corruption, and that it proves a miracle. Whenever the ceremony of kissing the toe takes place now, it is said his Holiness wears for the occasion a slipper with a cross worked in silk upon the place occupied by the toe, which is kissed, and thus the holy foot is saved from contamination.

170. What is the origin of the expression "knock under"?

Three explanations are given, as follows: That it arose from a custom once common of knocking under the table

when any guest wished to acknowledge himself beaten in argument. That the derivation is "knuckle under," that is, to knuckle or bend the knuckle or knee in proof of submission. Bellenden Kerr says it is "Te no'ck ander," which he interprets "I am forced to yield."

171. What are Kufic coins?

They are Mahometan coins with Kufic or Ancient Arabic characters. The first were struck in the eighteenth year of the Hegira (A. D. 638).

172. How did the word "grog" originate?

Jack loves to give a pet nickname to his favorite officers. The gallant Edward Vernon (a Westminster man by birth) was not exempted from the general rule. His gallantry and ardent devotion to his profession endeared him to the service. In bad weather he was in the habit of walking the deck in a rough "grogram" cloak and thence had obtained the nickname of "Old Grog." While in command of the West India station, and at the height of his popularity on account of his reduction of Porto Bello with six men-of-war only, he introduced the use of rum-and-water by the ship's company. When served out, the new beverage proved most palatable, and speedily grew into such favor that it became as popular as the brave Admiral himself, and in honor of him was surnamed by acclamation "Grog."

173. What became of the remains of King James II. of England?

The following curious account was given in 1840, by Mr. Fitzsimmons, an Irish gentlemen upward of eighty years of age, who taught French and English at Toulouse and claimed to be a runaway monk; —

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"I was a prisoner in Paris, in the convent of the English Benedictines in the Rue St. Jaques, during part of the Revolution. In the year 1793 or 1794, the body of King James II. of England (died 1701) was in one of the chapels there, where it had been deposited some time, under the expectation that it would one day be sent to England for interment in Westminster Abbey. It had never been buried. The body was in a wooden coffin, inclosed in a leaden one; and that again inclosed in a second wooden one, covered with black velvet. That while I was so a prisoner the *sans-culottes* broke open the coffins to get at the lead to cast into bullets. The body lay exposed nearly a whole day. It was swaddled like a mummy, bound tight with garters. The sans-culottes took out the body, which had been embalmed. There was a strong smell of vinegar and camphor. The corpse was beautiful and perfect. The hands and nails were very fine. I moved and bent every finger. I never saw so fine a set of teeth in my life. A young lady, a fellow prisoner, wished much to have a tooth; I tried to get one out for her, but could not, they were so firmly fixed. The feet also were very beautiful. The face and cheeks were just as if he were alive. I rolled his eyes; the eye-balls were perfectly firm under my finger. The French and English prisoners gave money to the sans-culottes for showing the body. They said he was a good sans-culotte, and they were going to put him into a hole in the public churchyard like other sans-culottes; and he was carried away, but where the body was thrown I never heard. King George IV. tried all in his power to get tidings of the body, but could not. Around the chapel were several wax moulds of the face hung up, made probably at the time of the King's death, and the corpse was very like them. The body had been originally kept at the palace of St. Germain, from whence it was brought to the convent of the Benedictines."

174. What was the Ear of Dionysius?

A prison cave near Syracuse, Italy, so constructed that a whisper at the further end of the cavern is easily heard by a person at the entrance, though the distance is two hundred feet. Tradition says that the Tyrant of Syracuse used this as a dungeon, and was thus enabled to listen to the conversation of his unfortunate prisoners.

175. Who killed Tecumseh?

Colonel Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, afterward Vice-President of the United States, was popularly called the "Tecumseh killer," but the fact was never fully proved. Tecumseh was killed in the battle of the Thames (Ontario), October 5, 1813. He was one of three brothers at the same birth, one of whom, Elskwatara, became famous as the "Prophet." They were born near Chillicothe, Ohio, on the banks of the Scioto river, about 1770. There have been several claimants for the fame of having slain the dreaded Shawnee chief, notably Abram Scribner, who came to Darke County, Ohio, in 1811, and served as a private in Colonel Johnson's regiment.

176. When was Black Friday?

The original Black Friday was December 6, 1745, when the Londoners heard that the Pretender had reached Derby. His adherents made their last fight to restore the Stuarts at Culloden in 1746. This was the last battle that has been fought in Great Britain. The term Black Friday has been given to an eventful day among stock and money speculators in New York, when a *few* gained what *many* lost. The crisis was due to the gold speculations of "Jim" Fisk on September 24, 1869.

Friday, September 19, 1873 (the day following the sus-

pension of Jay Cooke & Co.), when there were many failures in the business circles of New York City, is by some called a Black Friday.

177. What English King held the stirrup for a Pope of Rome to mount his horse?

Henry II. of England (1154–1189), in 1161, held the stirrup for Pope Alexander III. to mount his horse. It was at the Castle of Torci on the Loire. Louis VII., King of France, held the reins with Henry II., and both walked, leading the horse for the Pope to ride to the castle.

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178. When was the game of chess invented?

This game was invented, according to some authorities, by Palamedes, 680 B. C., but Oriental scholars say it is an Indian invention, and was played by the Hindoos, five thousand years ago.

179. What is the familiar story of Sysla and a king?

It is the old story under different names, disguises, and conditions, which simply represents a good problem in geometrical progression, of placing one grain of wheat upon the first square of the chess-board, and doubling the amount upon the squares successively to the sixty-fourth. Lucas de Burgo, who has solved this question, makes the number to be 18,446,744,073,709,557,615.

180. Who drove the last spike at the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad?

Ex-Governor Leland Stanford, President of the Central Pacific, of California. He is a native of Albany County, New York, born March 9, 1824, of English descent. He was

the fourth of eleven sons, and his father was a farmer. He served successfully a term of Governorship in California, and shoveled the first earth for the C. P. R. R., February 22, 1863; and, at noon on May 10, 1869, drove the golden spike, with a solid silver hammer, into a beautiful laurel tie, which was decorated with silver plates suitably inscribed.

181. What are the seven Bibles?

The seven Bibles of the world are the *Koran* of the Mohammedans, the *Tri Petikes* of the Buddhists, the *Five Kings* of the Chinese, the three *Vedas* of the Hindoos, the *Eddas* of the Scandinavians, the *Zendevester* (or *Zend Avesta*) of the Persians, and the *Scriptures* of the Christians. The Koran is the most recent of these, dating from about the middle of the seventh century.

182. What marks the boundary between the United States and Canada?

The northern boundary of our country is marked by cairns, iron pillars, earth mounds, and timber posts. A stone cairn is seven and a half by eight feet; an earth mound seven feet by fourteen feet; an iron pillar seven feet high, and timber posts five feet high. There are three hundred and eighty-five of these marks between the Lake of the Woods and the base of the Rocky Mountains. That portion of the boundary which lies east and west of Red River Valley is marked by cast-iron pillars, at even mile intervals, The British place one every two miles, and the United States one between each British post. Our pillars were made at Detroit. They are hollow iron castings, three eighths of an inch in thickness, in the form of a truncated pyramid, eight feet high, eight inches square at the bottom and four at the top. They have at the top a solid pyramidal cap, and at

the bottom an octagonal flange one inch thick. Upon the opposite faces are cast, in letters two inches high, the following inscriptions: "Convention of London," and "October 20, 1818." The inscriptions begin about four feet six inches above the base, and read upwards. The interior of the hollow posts is filled with well-seasoned cedar posts, sawed to fit, and securely spiked through spike-holes cast in the pillars for the purpose. Each pillar weighs eighty-five pounds. They are all set four feet in the ground, with their inscription-faces to the north and south. For the wooden posts, well-seasoned logs are selected, and the portion above the ground painted red, to prevent swelling and shrinking. These posts do very well, but the Indians cut them down for fuel, and nothing but iron will last very long. Where the line crosses lakes, mountains of stone have been built, the bases being in some places eighteen feet under water, and the tops projecting eight feet above the lake's surface at high-water mark. In forests the line is marked by felling the lumber a rod wide, and clearing away the underbrush. The work of cutting through the swamps was very great, but it has been well done, and the boundary distinctly marked by the commissioners the whole distance from Michigan to Alaska.

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183. Why does lightning turn milk sour?

Lightning causes the gases of the air to combine, and then produces a poison called nitric acid, some portion of which, mixing with the milk, turns it sour.

184. What spy swallowed the evidence of his guilt?

The Major Daniel Taylor to whom reference has been made in the answer to query 54. A solution of tartar emetic was prepared for him by order of the American

General Clinton,* which he at first refused to take, but being threatened with the dissecting-knife, reluctantly swallowed the dose, giving up evidence of his guilt. A second time he managed to swallow the bullet when the dose was repeated, and the spy soon afterwards executed.

185. Where is the Raleigh Tavern?

It was located in Williamsburg, Virginia. In the ball-room, or "Hall of Apollo," of this historic building, eighty-nine of the members of the Virginia Assembly (which had been dissolved by the Earl of Dunmore) met, and continued their legislative proceedings, just prior to the Revolution; and here Thomas Jefferson, Charles Lee, R. H. Lee, and others, in May, 1769, conferred upon the necessity of a permanent separation from the Mother Country.

186. What people regard Friday as a lucky day? Why?

The Spaniards. Columbus sailed from Palos on Friday, August 3, 1492; the discovery of a New World was made on the same day, October 12, 1492; and many of their noted and principal victories have been gained on this day of ill-omen. On Friday, the fourth day of January, 1493, Columbus started on his return to Spain, to announce to their Catholic Majesties the glorious result of their expedition, and on Friday, the fifteenth of March, 1493, he disembarked in Andalusia. He discovered the American continent on Friday, the thirteenth of June, 1498. Americans might, however, regard the day as one of good luck, as many felicitous and happy events in our history hold this as their natal day. On Friday, March 5, 1497, Henry VII. of Eng-

*The similarity of names of the English and American generals first misled the spy, and brought him into the patriot's camp.

land gave to John Cabot his dispatch for the voyage which resulted in the discovery of the continent of North America. On Friday, September 6, 1565, Melendez founded St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States. On Friday, November 10, 1620, the *Mayflower* first disembarked a few emigrants on American soil at Provincetown; and on Friday, December 22, 1620, her passengers finally landed at Plymouth Rock. It was on Friday, February 22, 1732, that George Washington was born. The union of the colonies was made on Friday, May 20, 1775. It was on Friday, June 17, 1775, that the battle of Bunker Hill was fought, and on Friday, October 17, 1777, that the surrender at Saratoga took place, which event resulted in our acknowledgment as a nation by France, and the offer of material aid and encouragement from our Gallic neighbor. On Friday the treason of Arnold was discovered; the surrender of Yorktown, October 19, 1781, was on an ever-memorable Friday; and on Friday, June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee read the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress.

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187. How did Cleopatra die?

She put an end to her life by the bite of an asp which was brought to her concealed in a basket of figs. August, 30 B. C. She was the daughter of Ptolemy Auletus, after whose death she became associated with her younger brother, Ptolemy, in the crown of Egypt. About the age of seventeen, she captivated Cæsar by her charms (she being very beautiful), who caused her to be made sole sovereign of Egypt. Her next victim, after Cæsar's death, was Mark Antony. He put away his wife Octavia, to live with her. After the terrible battle of Actium, 31 B. C., won by the conquerer, Augustus, she gave up all hopes of making terms, knowing him to be invincible to her fascinations.

188. What was the name of the Indian that shot King Philip?

The renegade traitor Alderman. Philip was killed August 12, 1676. An old Indian executioner, a bloodthirsty wretch, cut off the head of Philip and quartered him. Philip had one remarkable hand which was much scarred by the explosion of a pistol, and this was given to Alderman who preserved it in rum and carried it around the country as a show, "and accordingly," says Captain Benjamin Church (1639–1718), "he got many a penny by it."

189. Where are storks protected by law?

In Holland, where they feed on the frogs which breed in the pools and marshes, and preserve the dikes from the inroads of worms.

190. What city is built on five small islands?

Carlscrona, in the Baltic; it belongs to Sweden, and is the principal station of the Swedish navy. Stockholm is also built partly on islands, and intersected by numerous canals. The royal palace is on the highest and most central of the three islands in the original town, distinctively called "the city." (*Stad.*)

191. What is the meaning of Bab-el-Mandeb?

"Gate of Tears"; so called from the dangers of its navigation.

192. Where is there a "floating town"?

In Bangkok, Siam. It is composed of bamboo rafts, arranged like streets, and each supporting several houses.

193. What is the highest fortress in the world?

Gibraltar; built on a peninsular rock, which rises to the height of fifteen hundred feet. It has belonged to Britain since 1704, and has stood three sieges, the last and most famous one being in 1782.

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194. What body of water is *nine* times salter than the ocean?

The Dead Sea, whose surface is 1,312 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. It occupies the site of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim.

195. Where was the temple of Jupiter Ammon?

In the oasis of Siwah, three hundred and twenty miles west of Cairo, where the ruins are still to be seen. This is where Alexander the Great desired to be buried; but Perdiccas, the general in command, to whom Alexander in his dying moments gave his signet-ring, refused to go farther than Alexandria.

196. What country is known as the "white man's grave"?

Sierra Leone, which was founded in 1787, for the suppression of the slave trade. Owing to its unhealthy climate, the mortality among the white residents is unprecedentedly large.

197. Which is the nearest American town to Europe?

St. Johns, Newfoundland; being only about nineteen hundred and twenty miles from the coast of Ireland.

198. Where was Captain John Smith's life saved by Pocahontas?

In Gloucester county, Virginia, at a place called Meronocomoco, or Werowacomoco. It is situated near Mobjack Bay, which is an inlet near the mouth of the York river.

199. When was the "Starving Time" in Virginia?

Early in the year 1610, the existing government had been set aside by the new charter, and the old colonists became hungry and quarrelsome. Smith did what he could to maintain order and to keep off destitution. Being injured by an explosion of powder, he was obliged to return to England to seek medical aid, and his departure left the colony almost without control. Hostilities with the Indians were renewed, famine followed, and in six months four hundred and ninety colonists were reduced to sixty. One man was put to death for killing and eating his wife; others fed on the corpses of the dead.

200. What "Tea Parties" are celebrated in our history?

The Boston Tea Party, when a band of citizens, disguised as Indians, on the night of December 18, 1773, seized the vessels, emptied the tea into the harbor, and then quietly dispersed without harming the ships. A writer in the Boston *Journal* says that a small graveyard, near North Haverhill, New Hampshire, contains an unmarked grave, in which, for seventy years, have reposed the remains of one whom Boston should honor — brave McIntosh, the leader of the Boston Tea Party. McIntosh died in the year 1810 or 1811, at the house of a Mr. Hurlburt, who resided at

what is now known as the poor-farm, and to whose care McIntosh had been bid off as a public pauper at public auction as the lowest bidder, according to "ye ancient custom," and as recorded upon the town records. In 1772, a British vessel was in Narragansett Bay to enforce the collection of taxes. Her commander irritated the people, and on a stormy night in June, about sixty men, led by Captain Whipple, went in a boat and burned the vessel. Three years afterward, Sir James Wallace, in command of a British man-of-war in the same waters, wrote a note to the hero of that night's adventure, saying: "You, Abraham Whipple, on the seventeenth of June, 1772, burned His Majesty's vessel, the *Gaspé*, and I will hang you to the yard-arm." Whipple instantly replied: "*Sir:* — Always *catch* a man before you hang him."

As the petitions of the people of Maryland were disregarded by the British Ministry, in 1769 they formed "non-importation associations," the members of which pledged themselves neither to import, buy, nor sell any articles of British production, except such as were absolutely necessary, until the obnoxious law should be repealed. In July, 1770, the British barque *Good Intent*, with merchandise on board, arrived at Annapolis, and was compelled by the people to return without landing her cargo.

In August, 1774, a vessel arrived in the St. Mary's river with several packages of tea on board, consigned to merchants in Georgetown and Bladensburg. Committees had been formed in the various counties to see that no tea was imported; and those of Charles and Frederick counties ordered this consignment to be sent back to London.

On October 14, 1774, the brig *Peggy Stewart*, having on board, with other goods, over two thousand pounds of tea consigned to a mercantile house, arrived at Annapolis. The

citizens at once assembled in public meeting; resolved that the tea should not be landed, and that they would meet again on the nineteenth to determine what should be done with it. When they met on that day, they learned, to their great indignation, that Mr. Anthony Stewart, one of the owners of the brig, had paid the duty on the tea since their previous meeting. This action they justly considered as not only an insult, but treason, to his fellow-citizens. Alarmed at the public feeling, Mr. Stewart and the consignees signed a most humble apology for their conduct, and offered to land the tea and publicly burn it. This, however, was not considered a sufficient punishment for so grave an offence; and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, advised the unfortunate ship-owner to fire his vessel with his own hands. The *Peggy Stewart* was accordingly run aground near Windmill (now Jeffrey's) Point, with all her sails set and colors flying, and Mr. Stewart with his own hands applied the torch; the assembled multitude cheering while she burned to the water's edge. In this public and manly way did the patriotic Marylanders punish an attempt to betray their dearest rights; for they justly felt that the liberties of all depended upon a firm maintenance of the resolve not to be taxed without their consent. The centennial anniversary (an exact duplication) of this thrilling event was one of the interesting features of the year 1874. Similar actions took place prior to the Revolution, in the ports of New York, Charleston, and Savannah.

201. What was the fate of Osceola?

He was confined in a frame or log prison along the Battery at Charleston, South Carolina, in 1837. While in jail he presented a most abject and humiliated look, and when visitors were present would raise his head only to ask for

"baccy." Very unlike the heroic chieftain of sentimental verse who would not "ask for quarter" or "bend the knee." His death is supposed to have been occasioned by poison secretly administered to him. He was buried in the prison, and a plank slab now marks the spot.

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202. What is *ostracism?*

It derives its name from the word *ostreon;* Greek for shell. By the custom of Ostracism citizens of Athens could cast one shell each, with any obnoxious name (to them) written on it, into an enclosure. The magistrates counted the shells, and if six thousand shells were cast against any one person he was banished for ten years. A plebeian who did not know Aristides requested him to write the name *Aristides* on a shell; thereupon the Grecian statesman wrote his own name, but asked why the man wished to banish him. "Because," replied the ignorant voter and envious countryman, "I am vexed at hearing him everywhere and continually called THE JUST."

This method of getting rid of an undesirable citizen (though a very unjust one, for by it Greece lost many of her noblest and best men) was introduced by Cleisthenes, after the expulsion of Hippias, 510 B. C.

203. Who was the "Old Man Eloquent"?

Milton, in his sonnet to Lady Margaret Lay, uses this expression in allusion to Isocrates (436–338 B. C.). The name has been very generally applied in America to John Quincy Adams, and by some to Henry Clay.

204. Who first circumnavigated the globe?

Though Magellan is said to have been the first to circumnavigate the globe, in 1518–21, he did not complete his

voyage, as he was killed by the natives of the Philippine Islands, and the ships completed the "tour of the world" under command of his lieutenant, *Cano*.

205. Who was the rider of the Black Horse at Saratoga?

Benedict Arnold. A very graphic account is given of this intrepid hero (for he was one, despite his treachery) riding hatless along the ranks, in and out among the British soldiers, cheering his men, dashing alone against the enemy's lines, and by emulation causing his men to gain the victory. October 7, 1777.

206. Who had their ears licked by serpents while asleep?

It is said that Cassandra and Helenus were gifted with the power of prophecy, because serpents licked their ears while they were sleeping in the Temple of Apollo.

207. What maid was changed into a spider?

Arachne was changed into a spider by Athenæ (Minerva).

208. Whom did Jupiter change into a nightingale?

Philomela.

209. What was the location of the celebrated garden of the Hesperides?

The garden of the Hesperides was supposed to be at the foot of Mount Atlas, Greece. The Scilly Islands, ten miles from the Land's End of England, were known to the ancients as the Hesperides.

210. What pious couple was changed into an oak and a lime?

Philemon and Baucis were changed into trees by Zeus (Jupiter).

211. Who obtained divine rank by a leap into the sea?

Glaucus.

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212. What is the "tin-cry"?

The "cry of tin" is a crackling sound when a piece of block-tin or of solder containing tin is bent. If held near the ear it is very distinct. The sound is attributed to its crystalline structure, and the molecular motion caused by bending. Cast zinc, which breaks before it will bend, emits sound when pinched with pliers or between the teeth. An article on the "cry of tin" may be found in the *Scientific American* for June 11, 1881, p. 373.

213. What is Cleopatra's Needle?

The name of an Egyptian obelisk, and an absurd misnomer, as it was erected in the "twelfth dynasty," a thousand years before Joseph. It is a block of syenite, weighing about two hundred tons; was erected at Heliopolis, brought to Alexandria by Cleopatra, and placed in front of the palace of the Cæsars. It now stands in Central Park, New York City.

214. What is the toad-stone?

Toad-stone is a variety of trap-rock of a brownish color, found in Derbyshire, England. It is not named from a *toad*, but has been derived from the German words *todt* and *stein*,

meaning "dead-stone," as it never contains metallic ores. The jewel or precious stone once popularly supposed to be in the head of the toad, has been called a toad-stone. Shakespeare called it a "precious jewel." The name *toad-stone* or *bufonite* has been given to the fossil tooth of the fossil fish *Pycnodus*, supposed to have wonderful medical and magical properties.

215. What is Prince Rupert's Drop?

Drops of molten glass, consolidated by falling into water. Their form is that of a tadpole. The thick end may be hammered pretty smartly without breaking it, but if the smallest portion of their end is nipped off, the whole flies into fine dust, with explosive violence. These toys, if not invented by Prince Rupert, were introduced by him into England.

216. What place was regarded as the entrance of hell?

Acherusia, a cavern on the borders of Pontus, in Asia Minor, was fabled to lead to hell, or the infernal regions. Through this cavern Hercules was believed to have dragged the three-headed watch-dog of hell, Cerberus, to the earth.

In the volcanic districts of Tuscany an abundance of boron is found. Throughout an area of nearly thirty miles is a wild, mountainous region of terrible violence and confusion. The surface is ragged and blasted. Everywhere there issue from the ground jets of steam, filling the air with offensive odors. The earth itself shakes beneath the feet, and frequently yields to the tread, engulfing man and beast. "The waters below are heard boiling with strange noises, and are seen breaking out upon the surface. Of old it was regarded as the entrance to hell. The peasants pass

by in terror, counting their beads and imploring the protection of the Virgin."

Lake Avernus, in Campania in Italy, was also called by Virgil the entrance to the infernal regions, to which *the descent was easy.* (There are a hundred thousand licensed and unlicensed entrances in the United States.)

217. Why do not stones burn as well as wood?

Because they are already oxidized or burnt. They are forms of ashes, or products of combustion. Some unoxidized stones, as mineral coal, will burn as well as wood.

218. What is the story of Prince San Severo?

A certain Prince San Severo, at Naples, exposed some human skulls to the action of several reagents, and then to the heat of a furnace. From the product he obtained a substance which burned for months without apparent loss of weight. The prince refused to divulge the process, as he wished his family-vault to be the only one to possess a "*perpetual lamp*," the secret of which he considered himself to have discovered.

219. What is "fox-fire"?

A kind of rotten wood, which at night resembles a mass of glow-worms, and owes its light to the decaying *micelium* of a fungus.

220. What produces "green stars"?

For fireworks, *green stars* are made by burning a composition of baryta nitrate and charcoal, sometimes with potassium chlorate and arsenic sulphide. It is packed in a small box, like a pill-box, and ignited as required, usually

in the air by a rocket. Green Stars, in Astronomy, are usually associated with red, as binary stars. Nobody knows "what causes *them*."

221. Where is there an "Inverted Volcano"?

The Sculptured Rocks of Lake Superior furnish an example. The strata of the Pillared Rocks form a wall fifty to one hundred feet high, and line the shore for a distance of five miles. Their marked hues and fantastic shapes excite the imagination of every beholder. Here is "Miner's Castle," with its turrets and bastions; there "Sail Rock," a ship with sails fullspread; and yonder "The Amphitheatre," with its symmetrical curves. A closer inspection only reveals more curious details and resemblances.

222. When did the reign of the gigantic reptiles terminate?

With the Cretaceous geological period. How long ago this was *in years*, no one knows, but it was before the *tertiary* system, which covers the eastern coast of the United States from New Jersey to Texas.

223. What frog-like quadruped often attained the size of an ox?

The frog-like animal that in the triassic portion of the Mesozoic period was as large as an ox, was the Labyrinthodon.

224. What fish stick their heads in the mud?

The *mud-fish*, or Lepidosiren of tropical rivers, really a link between true fishes and reptiles, buries itself in the mud. Also a fresh-water fish, of the genus *Cobitis*, is called

the mud-fish from its mud-seeking habits. A species of Catfish — *Pimelodus* — resembling the Bullhead or Horned Pout is called the *Mudpout* because it plows into the mud at the bottom of rivers and creeks.

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225. What are "California diamonds"?

They are crystals of quartz, the most abundant of all minerals. They are sometimes cut and set by jewelers and sold as "white topaz," but often as "California diamonds."

226. What are *mesas?*

High plains or table-lands; from the Spanish *mesa*, table; Latin *mensa*. In *Pacific Railroad Report*, vol. i, p. 84, B. the "*mesa* or table-land character" of certain areas is noticed. There is a diminutive form *Mesilla* used where they occur on a smaller scale. Maury in Physical Geography, p. 31, note, states: "A *mesa* is a gentle knoll swelling gradually."

227. When was the Ichthyosaurus discovered.

It was first described to the scientific world in the Philosophical Transactions for 1814, by Sir Everard Home, of London, England. He called it a "reptile with the muzzle of a dolphin, the teeth of a crocodile, the head of a lizard the paddles of a whale, and the vertebræ of a fish." The year 1814 may be taken as the date of the discovery to men of science, though parts of the strange fossil had been found by workmen before.

228. What causes the white streaks on a plastered wall?

The simple explanation is that the "white streaks" indicate the location of the joists in large buildings, and that

while the air has filtered through the wall, depositing its dust, the portion of the ceiling touching the beams is protected from this process of filtration, and retains its natural or original color — *white*.

Or, in the words of Professor N. B. Webster, A.M., of Norfolk, Virginia: "The white streaks on plastered ceilings, often noticed in churches and halls, are always just under beams or joists, the intermediate spaces being darkened by deposits of dust in the air that have filtered upward through the porous plaster on laths; but the beams made an obstruction to the passage of the air, so, as it did not pass through the plaster under them, the plaster there was not colored. The plastered ceiling is a strainer for the air constantly passing through it when the air on opposite sides is not of the same temperature."

229. What causes the sweating of a pitcher?

The pitcher being colder than the surrounding atmosphere condenses the moisture.

230. How did the character £ come into use to denote pounds, and what does it signify?

It is from the old English black-letter ℔, the abbreviation for Libra — a pound weight; because anciently the pound money was by law a pound weight of silver.

231. Is it historically true that the dollar sign ($) is a contraction of U. S.?

Writers are not agreed as to the derivation of this sign to represent dollars. Some say that it comes from the letters U. S., which, after the adoption of the Federal Constitution, were prefixed to the Federal currency, and were afterwards,

in the hurry of writing, run into one another, the U being made first and the S over it. On the reverse of the Spanish dollar is a representation of the *Pillars of Hercules*, and round each pillar is a scroll, with the inscription *plus ultra*. The device, in the course of time, has degenerated into the sign which stands at present for American as well as Spanish dollar—$. "The scroll round the pillars," states one writer, "I take it, represents the two serpents sent by Juno to destroy Hercules in his cradle." Similarly, another author writes: "The combination of the Pillars of Hercules, supposed to have been planted at the mouth of the Mediterranean, and the serpent, form the original source of our dollar-mark. Probably in imitation of the ancient coins of Tyre." Others state that it is derived from the contraction of the Spanish word *pesos*, dollars; that it is from the Spanish *fuertes*, hard—to distinguish silver from paper money. The more plausible explanation is that it is a modification of the figure 8, and denotes a piece of eight *reals*, or, as the dollar was formerly called, a *piece of eight*. It was then designated by the figures $\frac{8}{8}$.

232. Where were the "Seven Cities of Cibola"?

Much interest has been taken by antiquarians to find the site of the "Seven Cities," and the wonderful expedition of Coronado to find these Aztec, or ante-Aztec, wonders, which were, in all probability, nothing more than a number of huts or small villages separated into seven divisions, was discussed in the publications of the Smithsonian Institution, several years ago. One supposition is that the name is a corruption of Cipango (China), as the Spaniards then thought they were in the *West India*. From an account of *M. De La Salle's Expedition*, by Cavalier Touti (translated in English), we clip the following: "We saw . . . . four-footed crea-

tures of all sorts, especially one large sort of oxen which they call *Cibolas*; these are raised like a camel from the chin to the middle of the back; they feed among the canes, and go together sometimes no less in number than fifteen hundred." This evidently refers to the bison, usually called buffalo.

The account of Coronado's march in search of the "Seven Cities of Cibola," by General J. H. Simpson, United States Army, published in *Report of Smithsonian Institution* for 1869, occupies about 33 pages. From this account we learn that "in the year 1530, Nuño de Guzman, president of New Spain, was informed by his slave, an Indian from the province of Tejos, situated somewhere north from Mexico, that in his travels he had seen cities so large that they might compare with the city of Mexico; that these cities were seven in number, and had streets which were exclusively occupied by workers in gold and silver, and that to reach them, a journey of forty days through a desert was required."

These were the "Seven Cities of Cibola" which Gallatin, Squier, Whipple, and others have contended were near Zuñi. On the contrary Emory and Abert of the United States Army have conjectured that Ciboletta, Moquino, Pojnati, Covero, Acoma, Laguna, and Poblacon, a group of villages some ninety miles east of Zuñi, furnish the site of the seven cities. Mr. Morgan in *North American Review*, April, 1869, suggests the ruins of Chaco, a hundred miles northeast of Zuñi, as the site. The account is too long to copy at length, but will repay perusal by such as can have access to the authorities indicated.

233. In what country are cats minus tails?

Manx or Cornish cats are tailless, but they are not now confined to one country.

234. Who said: "I am for my country, right or wrong"?

Commodore Stephen Decatur, United States Navy, at a public dinner given in Norfolk, Virginia, about the year 1817, gave this toast: "*Our country, right or wrong.*" These were the words, and this was the occasion.

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235. How do grasshoppers breathe?

They respire neither by means of lungs nor gills, but the air which enters by the breathing-pores is conveyed by tubes to all parts of the body.

236. When and how did the horse-shoe come to be an omen of *Good Luck?*

Horse-shoes were at one time nailed up over doors as a protection against witches. *It is lucky to pick up a horse-shoe.* Why? This was from the notion that a horse-shoe was a protection against witches. For the same reason our superstitious forefathers loved to nail a horse-shoe on their house-door. Lord Nelson had one nailed to the mast of his ship *Victory*. In the Tower of London is a highly curious suit of armor worn by King Henry VIII. (1490–1547), which was a present from the Emperor Maximilian I. of Germany (1459–1519) to the English king, on his marriage in 1509 with Katharine of Arragon. Upon it is the congratulatory word "*Gluck*," a word from the Gothic languages signifying *prosperity*. As armors went "out of fashion," the term was transferred to ordinary metal — and why not to the horse-shoe! and the term above indicated lengthened, by misapprehension or otherwise, into the expression *Good Luck*. This is our hypothesis.

237. Where is the "Home of the Gold"?

Somewhere in southwestern New Mexico, in the Sierra Madre, it is said, there is a wonderful valley. Small, inclosed in high, rocky walls, and accessible only through a secret passage, which is known to but few, is this extraordinary place. It is about ten acres in extent, and, running across it, is a ledge of pure gold about thirty feet wide, which glistens in the sunlight like a great golden belt. The vivid imagination of the Mexican has built upon it tales of men who have found this wonderful place. One is that a certain José Alvarrez, while wandering through the mountains in search of game, saw the valley from the top of one of the walls. Finding that he could not hope to enter it by climbing down, he took up his abode with the Indians who guard the cañon leading into it. The daughter of the chief fell in love with him, and betrayed the secret to him. Having been shown the entrance, José went in, and possibly would have managed to escape with some of the gold had he not weighed himself to such an extent that he could not get up the declivity at the lower end of the passage. He was discovered, and the Indians sacrificed him on the golden ledge with all the terrible ceremonies of the old Aztec religion. The girl, in despair at losing him, threw herself from the high walls into the valley below. Hundreds of prospectors have spent months of toil trying to find the Madre d'Oro, but, it is scarcely necessary to state, with no result.

238. What General has two graves?

General Wayne's remains ("Mad Anthony" of the Revolution, whom the Indians called the "Town-Destroyer" and the "Sleepless Chief"), which were exhumed at Erie, in the old fort, and brought over the mountains in a box,

seventy-six years ago, are in the old church at Radnor. There has been a story current that all his bones were not collected at the exhumation, and this has given origin to the statement of a man having two graves.

239. How much did England pay per head for the Hessians?

For twenty-two thousand Hessians, King George paid 21,276,778 thalers, or about $700 a head.

240. When did cats, dogs, sheep, and other animals cause the capture of a city?

In the year 525 B. C., when Cambyses, the son of Cyrus the Great, placed these animals (sacred to the Egyptians) before his army, defeated Psammenitus in a pitched battle, took Memphis, and conquered Egypt. Diodorus tells us that whoever killed a cat, even by accident, was by the Egyptians punished by death.

241. To whom were a bird, a mouse, a frog, and five arrows, sent as a present?

When Darius Hystaspes invaded Scythia about 510 B. C., the Scythian ruler sent him a *bird*, a *frog*, a *mouse*, and *five arrows*. As interpreted by Gobryas, one of the lords that had deposed the Magian impostor, it reads thus: "Know," says he to the Persians, "that unless you can fly in the air like birds, or hide yourselves in the earth like mice [moles], or dive under the water like frogs, you shall in no wise be able to avoid the arrows of the Scythians."

Darius accepted this view of the matter and retired to his own country.

242. Who betrayed the secret path at the Pass of Thermopylæ to Xerxes?

Epialtes, the traitor, a Trachinian.

243. Who puzzled Solomon?

Abdemon, a Tyrian, is said to have puzzled him with his subtle questions.

244. How many Athenians fell at Marathon?

One hundred and ninety-two. With the marble, that the Persians had brought to erect a pillar commemorative of their supposed victory, the Greeks made a monument, and on it were inscribed the names of these immortal dead.

245. Who was the first Indian to become a Christian?

Manteo was the first Indian to embrace Christianity. He was baptized on the thirteenth day of August, 1587. He was invested with the power of Baron or Lord of Roanoke. This was done by the members of the "Lost Colony."

246. Who was Madame Chanoyes?

The French woman who dragged Captain John Smith from the *hungry waves* of the Mediterranean, when he was about drowned, — he had been thrown overboard from a ship, — nursed him back to life and health, and "loved him for the dangers he had passed."

247. What are the "Summer Isles" to which reference is made in Captain John Smith's *Generall Historie?*

The Bermudas. The wreck of the *Sea Adventure,* carrying the three commissioners, Gates, Somers, and Newport, to

the Virginia colony in 1609, upon these islands, is supposed to be a part of the plot upon which Shakespeare based his drama of *The Tempest*.

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248. Who were the Budians?

A Scythian tribe were so called who were famous for their blue eyes and red hair.

249. What was the cause of "the slaughter of the magi"?

The enraged Persians, when they learned of the deception practised upon them by the false Smerdis, the Magian, who had seized the throne, passing himself off as Smerdis, the son of Cyrus the Great (whose death, by order of Cambyses, was known to him, but not to the people), fell upon these priests and massacred them. 521 B.C.

250. What were the *Sicilian Vespers?*

The massacre of eight thousand French by the people of Sicily on Easter Monday, in 1282 (March 30). It began at Palermo, as the bell was tolling for evening service, and hence it has taken this quaint title.

251. When was gunpowder invented?

It is said to have been first used in Europe on March 28, 1380, by the Venetians against the Genoese. The discovery of the power of powder is attributed to Berthold Schwartz, a monk of Mayence, about 1300, though it is said to have been known in India very early, and obtained from that country by the Arabians, who employed it in a battle near Mecca in 690. The use of gunpowder at the battles of Cressy and Poictiers in 1346 is questioned. Rabelais says

that the art of printing was invented about the same time by divine inspiration, as a match for the devil's suggestion of artillery.

252. Who is the "father of Russian poetry"?

Michael Lomonozof, who died April 4, 1764. He rose from the humble occupation of a fishmonger to be a philosopher of no mean pretensions; published a history of the Russian sovereigns, and an ancient history of Russia, from the origin of the nation. His odes are greatly admired for originality of invention, sublimity of sentiment, and energy of language.

253. Who was Laura de Noves?

The love of Petrarch. She was descended from a Provençal family which became extinct in the sixteenth century, inherited a large fortune by the death of her father, and married Hugh de Sade, of Avignon. She was considered the most beautiful woman of the city. Petrarch says it was six o'clock in the morning of the sixth of April, 1327, that he first saw her in the church of the nuns of Saint Clara; and it was the same hour of the same day, 1348, that she died of the plague. Nearly two centuries after, some antiquarians having obtained permission to open her grave, found a parchment enclosed in a leaden box, containing a sonnet bearing Petrarch's signature.

254. Who was Joice Heath?

A blind negress who had been carried about the country as a show, under the pretence that she was one hundred and sixty-two years of age, and had been the nurse of General Washington, dying in New York on February 22, 1836. A post-mortem examination proved that she could not have been more than eighty years old.

255. When was the mutiny of the crew of the *Bounty?*

It occurred on the twenty-eighth of April, 1789, while the ship was returning from Otaheite with a cargo of fruit trees to stock the West India Islands. The vessel had on board ten hundred and fifteen plants of the bread-fruit tree. Lieutenant Bligh and nineteen of the crew were compelled to go into an open boat; "they reached the Island of Timor in June, after a perilous voyage of twelve hundred leagues."

256. Who set fire to the Temple of Diana?

Eratostratus, an Ephesian youth who fondly panted for an infamous reputation, on the night of June 6, 356 B. C. (On this day was born Alexander the Great.)

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257. What is the *Index Expurgatorius?*

A catalogue of the books prohibited by the Church of Rome, first made by the Inquisitors, and approved by the Council of Trent, 1559. The Index of heretical books, by which the reading of the Scriptures was forbidden (with certain exceptions) to the laity, was confirmed by a bull of Pope Clement VIII. in 1595. Most of the celebrated works of France, Spain, Germany, and England, are prohibited. On June 25, 1864, Hugo's *Les Miserables* and many other books were added to the number. Several books were inserted in it in January, 1866.

258. When was the Battle of Great Bridge fought?

December 9, 1775. This was but a short time before the destruction of Norfolk, January 1, 1776. There was not a building left undestroyed in the city but a shed and St. Paul's Church. The latter still stands, an historic monu-

ment, with a cannon-ball, fired from the British vessel *Liverpool*, wedged in between the granite blocks.

The patriots in Virginia had been very successful from the beginning of the Revolution. After Governor Dunmore had been driven to the shelter of the British war-ships, he collected a motley force of royalists, and began to desolate southeastern Virginia. The "minute-men" gathered in large numbers to oppose him, and at the Great Bridge near the Dismal Swamp was fought this severe battle. Dunmore, defeated and humilated, returned to his ships at Norfolk, and burnt that city in revenge.

259. When was Ket's Rebellion?

In July, 1549, William Ket, a tanner, of Norfolk, England, demanded the abolition of *inclosures* and the dismissal of evil counsellors. The insurgents amounted to twenty thousand men, but were quickly defeated by the Earl of Warwick. More than two thousand fell. Ket was tried, and hanged August 27, 1549.

260. Who was the "Man with the Iron Mask?"

There have been many conjectures as to his identity. The two best are, that he was a son of Anne of Austria, queen of Louis XIII., his father being the Cardinal Mazarin (to whom that dowager-queen was privately married) or the Duke of Buckingham; or that he was the twin-brother of Louis XIV., whose birth was concealed to prevent civil dissensions in France, which it might one day have caused. This last conjecture was received by Voltaire and many others. It has been more recently supposed that Fouquet, an eminent statesman in the time of Louis XIV., was the *Marquis de Fer;* and a Count Matthioli, Secretary of State to Charles III., Duke of Mantua, is thought by M. Delort

in a later publication, to have been the victim. The Right Honorable Apgar Ellis (afterward Lord Dover), in an interesting narrative, endeavors to prove Matthioli to have been the person. The mask, it seems, was not made of iron, but of black velvet, strengthened with whalebone, and fastened behind the head with a padlock.

261. Who aided Napoleon to escape from Elba?

Count Lavalette, and for this he was condemned to death, but escaped from prison in the clothes of his wife, during a last interview, December 20, 1815. Sir Robert Wilson, Michael Bruce, Esq., and Captain J. H. Hutchinson, were convicted of aiding the escape, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the French capital, April 24, 1816. Lavalette was permitted to return to France in 1820, and died in retirement, in 1830.

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262. What were the Lemures?

The ancients supposed that the soul, after death, wandered over the world, and disturbed the peace of the living. The happy spirits were called *Lares familiares*, and the unhappy, *Lemures*. The Roman festival called *Lemuralia*, kept on May 9, 11, 13, was instituted by Romulus about 747 B. C., probably to propitiate the spirit of the slaughtered Remus.

263. What was the origin of Lynch Law?

A punishment inflicted by private individuals, independently of the legal authorities, is said to derive its name from John Lynch, a farmer, who exercised it upon the fugitive slaves and criminals dwelling in the "Dismal Swamp," North Carolina, when they committed outrages upon persons and property which the colonial law could not promptly

repress. This mode of administering justice began about the end of the seventeenth century, and is still practised occasionally in some parts of our country.

264. What were the Nemean Games?

The games celebrated at Nemea, in Achaia, which were originally instituted by the Argives in honor of Archemorus, who died by the bite of a serpent; Hercules some time afterward renewed them, 1226 B. C. The conqueror was rewarded with a crown of olives, afterward of green parsley, in memory of the adventure of Archemorus, whom his nurse laid down on a sprig of that plant. They were celebrated every third year, or, according to some authorities, on the first and third year of every Olympiad, 1226 B. C. They were revived by the Emperor Julian, A. D. 362, but ceased in 396.

265. When was the massacre at Paoli?

On the night of the twentieth of September, 1777, a corps of fifteen hundred Americans, under General Wayne, were attacked in their camp, near the Paoli tavern, in Pennsylvania, by a party of British and Hessians under General Greig, and about three hundred of them were killed or mortally wounded in the gloom. Fifty-three of them were found upon the ground the next morning, and were buried in one grave. A marble monument stands over that sepulchre.

266. When was the first feat of pedestrianism?

Euchidas, a citizen of Platæa, went from thence to Delphi to bring the sacred fire. This he obtained, and returned with it the same day before sunset, having travelled one

hundred and twenty-five miles. No sooner had he saluted his fellow-citizens and delivered the fire, than he fell dead at their feet. The courier Phidippides ran from Athens to Sparta to ask for aid, before the battle of Marathon. He ran one hundred and fifty miles in forty-eight hours.

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267. Who was Peter the Wild Boy?

A savage creature found in the forest of Hertswold, electorate of Hanover, when George I. and his friends were hunting. He was found walking on his hands and feet, climbing trees like a squirrel, and feeding on grass and moss, November, 1725. At this time he was supposed to be thirteen years old. The king caused him to taste of all the dishes at the royal table; but he preferred wild plants, leaves, and the bark of trees, upon which he had lived from his infancy. No efforts of the many philosophic persons about court could entirely vary his savage habits, or cause him to utter one distinct syllable. He died February, 1785, at the age of seventy-two. Lord Monboddo represented him to be a proof of the hypothesis that "man in a state of nature is a mere animal."

268. For what is Norfolk Island noted?

As the residence of the descendants of the ten mutineers from the ship *Bounty* who were discovered accidentally living on Pitcairn's Island in 1814. The mutineers had married some black women from a neighboring island, and had become a singularly well-conducted community under the fostering care of Adams, the principal mutineer. Obtaining the favor of the English government, through their priest, the Rev. Mr. Nobbs, they were removed, with all their property, in the ship *Morayshire*, on May 3, and landed, after a boisterous passage, on Norfolk Island with

two thousand sheep, four hundred and fifty head of cattle, and twenty horses, and stores given to them to last twelve months; their numbers were ninety-six males and one hundred and two females.

269. Where is Pompey's Pillar?

It stands about three quarters of a mile from Alexandria, between the city and Lake Mareotis. The shaft is fluted, and the capital ornamented with palm-leaves; the whole, which is highly polished, composed of three pieces, and of the Corinthian order. The column measures, according to some, ninety-four feet; and others, one hundred and forty-one, and even one hundred and sixty feet; but of its origin, name, use, and age, nothing is certain. It is, however, generally believed that the column has no reference to Pompey, to whom a mark of honor was nevertheless set up somewhere in that part of the world.

270. Who was Pope Joan?

It is asserted that in the ninth century, a female named Joan conceived a violent passion for a young monk named Felda, and in order to be admitted into his monastery, assumed the male habit. On the death of her lover she entered upon the duties of professor, and, being very learned, was elected pope, when Leo IV. died, in 855. Other scandalous particulars follow; and Gibbon writes: "Yet until the Reformation, the tale was repeated and believed without offense"; and "A most palpable forgery is the passage of Pope Joan, which has been foisted into some MSS. and editions of the Roman Anastasius. The two years of Joan's imaginary reign are forcibly inserted between Leo IV. and Benedict III. But the contemporary Anastasius indissolubly links the death of Leo and the

elevation of Benedict, and the accurate chronology of Pagi, Muratori, and Leibnitz fixes both events in the year 857." There are many notes and opinions on this much-discussed subject antagonistic to Gibbon's idea. Morny du Plesis writes in his commentaries of Damascus, Pandulfe, and Pisa, that he had seen the woman's name inserted in the margin between Leo IV. and Benedict III. Petrarch affirmed the existence of a female pope as a certain fact, calling her *Johannem Anglicum* (from the theory that she was the daughter of an English couple), and adds that she was not entered in the catalogue of popes because she was a woman. Boccaccio also names her among the list of famous or illustrious women.

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271. Where was Rosamond's Bower?

Rosamond was daughter of Lord Clifford, and mistress of Henry II. about 1154. A conspiracy was formed by the queen, Prince Henry, and his other sons, against the king, on account of his attachment to her. Henry kept her in a labyrinth at Woodstock, where his queen, Eleanor, it is said, discovered her apartments by the clew of a silk thread, and poisoned her. She was buried at Godstow church, from whence Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, had her ashes removed, 1191.

272. What was the *immediate cause* of the "Sicilian Vespers"?

On Easter Monday, the chief conspirators had assembled at Palermo (in furtherance of their design against Charles of Anjou, as the French had become hateful to the Sicilians), and, while the French were engaged in festivities, a Sicilian bride happened to pass by with her train. She was observed by one Drochet, a Frenchman, who began to use her rudely,

under pretense of searching for arms. A young Sicilian, exasperated at this affront, stabbed him with his own sword; and a tumult ensuing, two hundred French were instantly murdered. The enraged populace now ran through the city, crying out: "Let the French die!" and, without distinction of rank, age, or sex, slaughtered all of that nation they could find.

273. What three *joyous* messages did Philip of Macedon receive in one day?

At the falling of Potidea a courier brought him the news of the birth of his son, Alexander the Great, and two other messengers reached his camp announcing that his racehorse had gained the prize at the games, and that Parmenio, his captain, had defeated the Illyrians.

274. How did "Yankee Doodle" originate?

The air and words are as old as Cromwell's time, with the exception that Yankee Doodle was then Nankee Doodle, for it was Cromwell that "stuck a feather in his hat," when going into Oxford with a single plume fastened in a knot called *macaroni*. The tune was known in New England before the Revolution as *Lydia Fisher's Jig*, and there were verses to it commencing: —

"Lucy Locket lost her pocket,
Lydia Fisher found it,
Not a bit of money in it,
Only binding round it."

The regulars in Boston, in 1775 and 1776, are said to have sung verses to the same air: —

"Yankee Doodle came to town,
For to buy a firelock;
We will tar and feather him,
And so we will John Hancock," etc.

The manner in which the tune came to be adopted by the Americans is shown in the following letter of the Rev. W. Gordon. Describing the battles of Lexington and Concord, he writes: "The brigade under Lord Percy marched out [of Boston] playing, by way of contempt, *Yankee Doodle;* they were afterwards told they had been made to dance it."

275. When did pantaloons come in fashion?

A kind of tight trousers fitting the knee and leg, came into fashion about 1790, and were so called; the name, however, existed long before, but meant loose trousers, such, perhaps, as were worn by the "lean and slippered *pantaloon*" of Shakespeare, and probably by the pantaloons of the stage. "The pantaloon," says Evelyn (*Tyrannus; or, the Mode*), "are too exorbitant, and of neither sex." They were "set in plaits" not, it seems, unlike the fashion of Cossack trousers, which came into fashion in Europe after the French campaigns to Russia, and still more after the Russian campaigns into France.

276. From whom did the Bonapartes adopt the name of Napoleon?

They are said to have adopted the name from Napoleon des Ursins, a distinguished character in Italian story, with one of whose descendants they became connected by marriage; and the first of the family to whom it was given was a brother of Joseph Bonaparte, the grandfather of Napoleon.

277. Who is the author of the saying: "Speech was given to man to conceal his thoughts"?

Research has proved that the germ of the thought occurs in Jeremy Taylor; that Lloyd and South improved upon it;

that Butler, Young, and Goldsmith repeated it; that Voltaire translated it into French; that Talleyrand echoed Voltaire's words; and that it has now become so familiar an expression that any one may quote it, as Lord Holland has done, without being at the trouble of giving his authority.

278. When were the Stars and Stripes adopted?

Congress, on the fourteenth of June, 1777, "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." As to the origin of the combination, and who first suggested the idea, some have supposed that it might have been derived from the arms of General Washington, which contain three stars in the upper portion, and three bars running across the escutcheon. There is no means of knowing at this day whether this conjecture is correct, but the coincidence is rather striking. There were several flags used before this striped flag. In March, 1775, "a union flag with a red field" was hoisted at New York upon the liberty pole, bearing the inscription "George Rex and the liberties of America," and upon the reverse, "No Popery." On the eighteenth of July, 1778, General Putnam raised, at Prospect Hill, a flag bearing on one side the (then) motto of Massachusetts (now of Connecticut), "*Qui transtulit sustinet*" ("He who transplanted, still sustains"), on the other, "An appeal to Heaven." In October of the same year the floating batteries at Boston had a flag with the latter motto, the field white with a pine-tree upon it. This was the Massachusetts emblem. Another flag, used during 1775, in some of the colonies, had upon it a rattlesnake coiled as if about to strike, with the motto, "Don't tread on me." (Present emblem of South Carolina.) The

grand union flag of thirteen stripes was raised on the heights near Boston, January 2, 1776. Letters sent from there state that the "regulars" did not understand it; and as the king's speech had just been sent to the Americans, they thought the new flag was a token of submission. The idea of making each stripe for a State was adopted from the first; and the fact goes far to negative the supposition that the private arms of Washington had anything to do with the subject. The pine-tree, rattlesnake, and striped flags were used indiscriminately until June, 1777, when the blue union with the stars was added to the stripes, and the flag established by law. Formerly a new stripe was added for each new State admitted to the Union, until the flag became too large, when, by act of Congress, the stripes were reduced to the old thirteen; and now a star is added to the union at the accession of each new State.

279. Who was the author of the expression, "The three Rs"?

This phrase is generally referred to Sir William Curtis, Baronet, Lord Mayor in 1795, and for thirty-six years Alderman of the Ward of Tower. He gave a toast at a dinner, "The three Rs." Although a man of limited education, he was very shrewd, and not so ignorant as to suppose his presumed orthography was correct. He chose the phrase in the above form purely for a jocular reason.

280. What are the "fifteen decisive battles of the world"?

As given by E. S. Creasy, M.A., they are: 1. Marathon (B. C. 490), where the ten thousand Greeks under Miltiades defeated Darius the Persian, with his one hundred thousand men, and turned the tide of Asiatic invasion. 2. Syracuse

(B. C. 413), in which the Athenian power was broken, and the extension of Greek domination prevented. 3. Arbela (B. C., October 1, 331), by which Alexander overthrew Darius and introduced European habits into Asia. 4. The Metaurus (B. C. 207), in which the Romans defeated Hannibal, and Carthage came to ruin. 5. Victory of Arminius (A. D. 9), in which the Gauls overthrew the Romans under Varus, and established the independence of Gaul. 6. Châlons (A. D. 451), in which Attila, the "Scourge of God," was defeated by Actius, and Europe saved from utter devastation. 7. The Battle of Tours (A. D. 732), in which Charles Martel overthrew the Saracens, and broke from Europe the Mohammedan yoke. 8. Hastings (A. D. 1066), by which William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, became possessed of the English crown. 9. Orleans (A. D. 1429), by which Joan of Arc (Joan Darc) raised the siege of the city, and secured the independence of France. 10. The Defeat of the Spanish Armada (A. D. 1588), which crushed the hopes of Spain, and of the papacy in England. 11. Blenheim (A. D. 1704), when Marlborough defeated Tallard, and broke off the ambitious schemes of Louis XIV. 12. Pultowa (A. D. 1709), in which Charles XII. of Sweden was defeated by Peter the Great, of Russia, and the stability of the Muscovite empire established. 13. Saratoga (A. D. 1777), in which Burgoyne was defeated, and the result of the American Revolution virtually decided by France becoming the ally of the Americans. 14. Valmy (A. D. 1792,) in which the allied armies under the Duke of Brunswick were defeated by the French Revolutionists, and the revolution was suffered to continue. 15. Waterloo (A. D. June 18, 1815), in which Wellington defeated Napoleon. Every man who served in the British army at this battle was credited with two years' service for the work of that day. Among the decisive battles of more recent date are Gettysburg (July 1-3,

1863), in the Civil War, and Sedan (September 1, 1870), in the Franco-Prussian war. From the former dated the decline of the Confederacy, and the latter resulted in the capture of Napoleon III. and his army.

281. What was the *Mons Meg?*

A monstrous gun, several centuries old, formed of bars of iron, secured by great iron hoops, placed in the Castle of Edinburgh, on a lofty platform which overlooks a broad valley. The balls which this gun carried are more than a foot in diameter. It is now disabled, having been burst, many years ago, and injured beyond the possibility of repair.

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282. Who was called "the golden king"?

Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden was, and is, popularly called *Guldkungen* (the golden king), on account of his yellow hair and fair complexion.

283. Where is the Blue River?

The chief river of Abyssinia is the Bahr-el-azrek (Blue River), so called from the mud which it carries down.

284. What is the derivation of "Cameo"?

The true etymology of this much-disputed word, in Henry III.'s time written *Camahut*, is to be sought in the Persian word *Camahen*, lodestone or fibrous hæmatite, the usual material for Babylonian cylinders, and in use there down to the times of the Cufic signets. The Arabs knowing no other motive for the engraving of stones than their conversion into talismans, gave the name of the one most frequently used to the whole class; and the Crusaders introduced it into all European languages in this sense.

Matthew Paris has "*lapides quos cameos vulgariter appellamus*" ("Stones which we commonly call cameos,"—*cameo* being an Italian word), which marks its foreign origin.

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285. What was the fate of Louis XVII.?

The unhappy prince was put in charge of a wretch (on the execution of his father, January 21, 1793), by the name of Simon, a cobbler, with the instruction that he was to see that the "dauphin had a short life." Accordingly, by the most severe treatment, by beating, cold, vigils, fasts, and ill-usage of every kind, he sank to the grave, dying on the eighth day of June, 1795.

286. Who was the "Hermit of Niagara Falls"?

Francis Abbot, drowned while bathing in the river on the tenth of June, 1831. A native of England, of Quaker parentage, he arrived at the falls in June, 1829, on foot, in a very singular costume, and after a week's residence became so fascinated with the place that he determined on fixing his abode on Goat Island. He sought seclusion, and wished to erect a hut, but the proprietor not thinking proper to grant his request, he took a small room in the only house, where he was occasionally furnished with bread and milk by the family, but more generally providing, and always cooking, his own food. In the second winter of his residence, the house changed tenants, at which he quitted the island and built himself a small cottage on the main shore, about thirty rods below the falls. He was a person of highly cultivated mind and manners, a master of languages, and deeply read in the arts and sciences, and performed on various musical instruments with great taste; his drawings also were very spirited. He had travelled over

Europe and parts of the East, and possessed great colloquial powers when inclined to be sociable. On entering his hut his guitar, violin, flutes, music-books, and portfolio were scattered around in profusion; but not a single written paper of any kind was found to throw the least light on this extraordinary character.

287. What King of England died in his carriage?

George I. died in his carriage near Osnaburgh, in Germany, on the eleventh of June, 1727, aged sixty-eight. He was the first king of England of the house of Brunswick, and had reigned thirteen years.

288. Who were the "American daughters of liberty"?

A society formed in Philadelphia on the thirteenth of June, 1780, for the purpose of supplying the soldiers with clothing. The city was divided into ten districts, and four appointed to each district to solicit subscriptions. Their donations amounted to two thousand and thirty shirts, and they obtained seventy-seven shirts and three hundred and eighty pairs of socks from New Jersey.

289. What king became a cook?

On the sixteenth of June, 1487, was the Battle of Stoke, England. Lambert Simnel, who had been crowned in Ireland, received the king's pardon, and was made a scullion in the royal kitchen.

290. When did Sir John Falstaff drop his *thirsty lance?*

At the battle of Patray in France, June 18, 1429, when considering "discretion the better part of valor," he ran

away. The English under Talbot were defeated by Joan of Arc, with the loss of fifteen hundred slain and ten hundred taken prisoners.

291. For what is John Cleves Symmes remembered?

For the enthusiasm with which he maintained the theory that the earth was hollow, with an opening at each of the poles. He died in 1829.

292. What rent did Lord Baltimore pay for the patent of Maryland?

The patent of Maryland, designed for George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, was, on his decease, filled up to his son, Cecilius Calvert. When King Charles signed it (1632), he gave to the new patent the name of Maryland, in honor of his queen, Henrietta Maria. Lord Baltimore held it of the crown of England as part of Windsor Manor paying yearly, forever, *two Indian arrows.*

293. Who was the executioner of Charles I.?

Richard Brandon, the hereditary hangman, who died in misery. He was interred the next day, amidst execrations and insults, which he could not feel.

294. Where were fifteen hundred persons trampled to death?

At the *fête* given in celebration of the marriage of Louis XVI. of France, on the twenty-first of June, 1770.

295. What became of Romulus?

He disappeared on the "nones," during the *quirinalia*, in a chariot of fire, *patriis equis*, as he was reviewing his people, July 7, 715 B.C. There seems to be no other way of

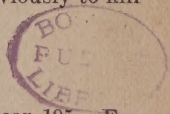
explaining this account, than that he was a victim of some of the elements.

296. Who was Jeanne Hachette?

A heroine who, with her regiment of women, immortalized herself at the siege of Beauvais, France, when invested by Charles the Bold, Duke of Normandy, with an army of eighty thousand men. The siege was raised on the tenth of July, 1472, and an anniversary is still held on this day in memory of the famous Jeanne.

297. Who assassinated William, Prince of Orange?

Balthazar Gerard, a Burgundian, shot the prince through the head as he was going out of his palace at Delft, in July, 1584. The assassin was put to death by the Dutch; but his parents were ennobled and richly rewarded by Philip II. of Spain. Philip had offered a reward for the prince's murder, and five separate attempts had been made previously to kill him.



298. Where is Trajan's floating palace?

It was sunk in Lake Nemi, Italy, in the year 195. Explored by Marchi in a diving-machine on the fifteenth of July, 1535, it was found in a tolerable state of preservation, measuring five hundred feet in length, two hundred and seventy in breadth, and sixty in depth. This magnificent work was designed for the retirement of a prince celebrated for his magnificent taste, and were it possible to rescue it from its present position, or examine the interior, many valuable relics might be brought to light, to enrich the cabinet of the antiquarian, if not to subserve the use of science.

299. What "rustic lovers" have been made famous by Pope, Thomson, and Gray?

John Hewet and Sarah Drew, struck dead by lightning, July 31, 1718, while under the shelter of a haycock, in England, and upon whose graves the poets have scattered flowers. Pope's epitaph on the couple is: "Near this place lie the bodies of John Hewet and Sarah Drew, an industrious young man and virtuous maiden of this Parish, who, being at Harvest-Work, were in an instant killed by lightning, the last day of July, 1718." Part of Pope's verses are: —

"Think not by rigorous judgment seized
A pair so faithful could expire:
Victims so pure Heaven saw well pleased,
And snatched them in celestial fire."

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John had covered Sarah with hay, and was found with his arm around her neck, as if to protect her. Their parents had that morning consented to their marriage, to take place the next Sunday. They were buried the next day in Oxfordshire, and Lord Harcourt built a monument to them.

300. What were the first American vessels to circumnavigate the globe?

The ship *Columbia*, Captain Gray, and sloop *Washington*, which sailed from Boston for the northwest coast of America and China on August 9, 1787. They returned in 1790.

301. How was the Liberty Tree of Boston *consecrated?*

By exposing on it the effigies of the men who had rendered themselves odious by their agency in procuring the passage of the Stamp Act. A copper plate thirty inches by

forty-two was fixed upon it, bearing the inscription in golden letters, *The Tree of Liberty, August 14, 1765.* Ten years afterwards the British cut it down, at which time it had been planted one hundred and nineteen years. They left nothing but the stump above ground, — the *root* they could not exterminate. It produced fourteen cords of wood. One of the party engaged in demolishing it lost his life.

302. When was the first play performed in America?

On September 5, 1752, at Williamsburgh, then the capital of Virginia. The piece was *The Merchant of Venice*, and the evening's entertainment closed with *Lethe*, written by Garrick. Thus Shakespeare had the first place, in time as in merit, as the dramatist of the Western world, and Garrick the honor of attending on his master. Lewis Hallam made his "first appearance on any stage" at this performance. He had one line to speak, apparently an easy task; but when he found himself in the presence of the audience he was panic-struck; he stood motionless and speechless, until, at last, bursting into tears, he walked off the stage, making a most inglorious exit. It is scarcely necessary to add that he was afterwards the hero and favorite in tragedy and comedy for nearly half a century.

303. What became of Henry Hudson's crew?

They were picked up, September 1, 1611, by a fisherman, being in a wretched condition. Their best sustenance left, while on their voyage, was seaweed fried with candles' ends, and the skins of fowls. They were in such a state of starvation that only one of them had strength to lie on the helm and steer the ship. It appears that they had quarreled among themselves, and met with a fearful retribution.

304. Who wrote two hundred and seventy-eight poems before the age of seventeen?

Lucretia Maria Davidson, an American poetess, who died August 27, 1825, before completing her seventeenth year. Of her poems, some of which were written at the age of nine years, *Amir Khan* is the principal one.

305. When was a Governor of Delaware taken prisoner?

On the night of September 12, 1776, when Washington with the remains of his army entered Philadelphia, after his disastrous defeat at Brandywine, a party of British soldiers made an excursion to Wilmington, took the Governor of Delaware out of his bed, and captured a shallop richly laden with public and private property, and the public records.

306. When was the first English child born in America?

On August 18, 1587, at Roanoke Island. She was the granddaughter of White, the Governor, and was baptized on the following Sabbath, by the name of *Virginia* (Dare).

307. What monarch was obliged to beg his bread?

Frederick IV. of Germany, who died September 7, 1493. He was a weak, indolent, and superstitious monarch, who saw his subjects revolt with indifference, and was afterward reduced to beggary.

308. Who built a bridge of boats across the Hudson?

General Burgoyne, having collected about thirty days' provisions, crossed the Hudson on the bridge of boats

thrown across the river by his soldiers, on September 14, 1777, and encamped on the heights and plains of Saratoga.

309. Whose head was fixed on London Bridge?

Gerald Fitzgerald, sixteenth earl of Desmond, suffered attainder and forfeiture of 574,628 acres. His head was fixed on the bridge.

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310. How was the Parthenon destroyed?

The Venetians under Morosini bombarded Athens, September 28, 1687, when a bomb fired the powder magazine kept by the Turks in the Parthenon. This noble building, which had stood almost two thousand years, and was then nearly perfect, was by this calamity reduced to a ruin, and with it perished the ever memorable remains of the genius of Phidias. In attempting to remove the chariot of victory, which stood on the west pediment of the Parthenon, it fell and was dashed to pieces.

311. Where did Columbus meet his brother?

At the town of Isabella, in the West Indies, on September 29, 1494, after a separation of fourteen years, during which the latter had paid an unsuccessful visit to the court of England.

312. Why was Columbus obliged to promise his crew that he would return in case land was not discovered in three days?

The ship Niña, rigged with *lateen* sails and usually ahead of the others, supposing she had discovered land on October 7, 1492, hoisted her flag, and fired a Lombardo. This was soon found to be an illusion; insubordination broke forth

among the crews, when Columbus, with the two Pinzons, commanders, was compelled to enter into this agreement with the murmurers.

313. When did an eclipse terminate a battle?

On September 30, 610 B.C., the Lydians and Medes had just begun a battle, when an eclipse of the sun (foretold by the skill of Thales) spread darkness over the scene. The furious combatants paused in the heat of the onset, and gazed in mute terror at the heavens. A dark pall seemed to be hung over the sun, to signify the displeasure of the gods. These warlike nations, ignorant of the true cause of the phenomenon, and trembling at the fear of speedy judgment, hastened to ratify a peace. An alliance was formed between the contending parties, the daughter of Alyattes the Lydian king, and sister to Crœsus, was affianced to Astyages, son of Cyaxáres; and the two monarchs, to render the contract binding, opened a vein in their arms and licked each other's blood. There is much doubt existing concerning the correct date of this noted battle. Many writers say an eclipse of the sun *prevented* a battle, but in Taylor's *Manual of Ancient History*, p. 62, it is stated: "The most memorable event of this war, which lasted five years, was the total eclipse of the sun, that took place in the midst of a battle, and so alarmed the contending parties that both the Medes and the Lydians fled in confusion from the field. A peace was soon after concluded."

Rawlinson in his *Ancient History* (Harper's ed., p. 52) is self-contradictory. He writes, that Alyattes, son of Sadyattes, made peace with Miletus, B.C. 620. Carried on defensive war against Cyaxares of Media, B.C. 615 to 610; died 568. He also states that Alyattes reigned 49 years: 609 to 560 B.C., when Crœsus succeeded, 560 to 546 B.C.

Again on same page: "Crœsus was conquered by Cyrus, 554 B.C.

Professor Olmstead in *Letters on Astronomy* states that the eclipse was about 600 B.C. Steele's *Astronomy* says the eclipse Thales predicted was May 28, 584 B.C. If so, there was a similar one in that region 602 B.C. Conflicting statements considered, the date 602 B.C. bears the best authority. The date 610 B.C. is given, as is well known, in several text-books, and for such reason is allowed to remain in the original statement.

314. Who became an officer in the English army at the age of eleven?

Major-General Charles Lee, who joined the American army at the outbreak of the Revolution, but was suspended after the battle of Monmouth, dying in Philadelphia on October 2, 1782. He distinguished himself in 1762 under Burgoyne in Portugal.

315. When was the first commencement held at Harvard College?

In 1642, on the ninth day of October, when nine candidates took the degree of A.B.

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316. Where is Mount Galongoon?

On the island of Java. An eruption of this mountain occurred on the eighth of October, 1822, when immense columns of boiling hot mud, mixed with burning brimstone, were projected from its top like a water-spout with such prodigious violence that large quantities fell at the distance of forty miles. Between the hours of two and five in the afternoon, a fruitful and thickly-peopled country was laid

under a crust of boiling mud, in some places to the depth of sixty feet. Five million coffee-trees were destroyed, eighty-seven canals, numerous rice-fields, one hundred and fourteen villages, and upwards of four thousand inhabitants. The scene presented a bluish, half-liquid waste, where bodies of men, women, and children, partly boiled and partly burned, were strewed about in every variety of death. It was followed by a rainstorm of four days' duration, which inundated the country, when another eruption took place, more violent than the first.

317. When was an infant the only human being saved at the destruction of a city?

A deluge in the island of Madeira, on the ninth of October, 1803, swept the city of Funchal, with all its inhabitants, into the ocean, leaving the rocky basis of the island bare. An infant was the only human being that escaped. The event is supposed to have been occasioned by a water-spout, which had burst against the side of the mountain, and discharged itself down the declivities upon the fated city.

318. Who was the first slave-trader?

Sir John Hawkins sailed from Plymouth, England, October 18, 1564, with four vessels for the African coast; and this was the first slave-trade adventure and the opening of that infernal commerce. The negroes were taken to Hispaniola and sold to the Spaniards.

319. How was Bonaparte's life saved by an intoxicated coachman?

The tenth of October, 1800, is noted in Paris as the day that an infernal machine was exploded, intended to have

destroyed Napoleon as he proceeded to the opera. The coachman, being intoxicated, drove faster than was his custom, and the engine exploded half a minute after the carriage had passed, killing twenty persons, wounding fifty-three, and shattering the windows on both sides of the street.

320. Who used drinking vessels formed of human skulls?

Columbus discovered the island of Guadaloupe, the largest of the Carib or Cannibal Islands, called by the natives Carucueria, on November 4, 1493. The drinking vessels of this fierce people were formed of human skulls.

321. Upon what day did the Flood begin?

According to Polyhistor, from Berosus, it began upon the fifteenth, or the ides, of the Assyrian month *Doesia*, which corresponds with November 9, 2348 B.C. This event was prefigured to the patriarch in a vision, when the Deity enjoined him to commit to writing a history of all things, which he was to bury in the City of the Sun, at Sippara. The same uninspired authority informs us that Noah was the tenth king of Chaldea, and that he reigned eighteen *sari*.

322. Where was the "Royal dance of Torches"?

At Berlin, Germany, on the occasion of the marriage of the prince royal with the Princess of Bavaria, December 3, 1821.

323. Who was the Prussian Leonidas.

Wedel, who with a single battalion of Prussians disputed the passage of the Elbe at Solnitz, for five hours against the whole Austrian army; and, under the fire of fifty

cannon, thrice repulsed the Austrian grenadiers, on November 19, 1744. Wedel lost two officers and one hundred men.

324. When was St. Paul shipwrecked?

It was a fortnight from the fast and about November 20, 63, that Paul, by the ocular testimony of Luke, was cast upon the shores of Malta, where they wintered three months, until the period of navigation in March. Josephus, the Jewish historian, was wrecked in the same sea, and in or very nearly the same year.

325. What Pope escaped from prison in diguise?

Pope Clement VII., on the sixth of December, 1527, although by a treaty with the Emperor Charles V., he would have been liberated the following day.

326. What was called the *Eden of America?*

In referring to the capture of Rhode Island (December 6, 1776) by the British under General Clinton and Sir Peter Parker, an English work states: "It is called the *Eden of America*, and celebrated (very naturally) for the beauty of its women."

327. On what condition was a large fortune left to the son of Henry Laurens?

His property amounting to $250,000 was left to his son on condition that he should burn his body on the third day after his death. This patriot of South Carolina was distinguished for talent and activity, and succeeded Hancock as president of Congress. He was captured by the British while on a mission to Holland and confined a long time in the Tower of London. He died December 8, 1792.

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328. What was the last battle of the Revolution?

It was the twenty-fifth of November, 1783, — a brilliant day, — that an excited crowd surged and shouted about Mr. Day's tavern in Murray Street, near the road to Greenwich. Cunningham, the cruel and vindictive British provost-marshal, stood at the foot of the flag-pole, from which floated the Stars and Stripes, the flag of the new republic. "Come, you rebel cur," he shouted to Mr. Day, "I give you two minutes to haul down that rag — I'll have no such striped clout as that flying in the faces of his Majesty's forces!"

"There it is and there it shall stay," said Day, quietly but firmly. Cunningham turned to his guard. "Arrest that man," he ordered. "And as for this thing here, I'll haul it down myself," and seizing the halyards, he began to lower the flag. The crowd broke out into fierce murmurs, uncertain what to do. But in the midst of the tumult, the door of the tavern flew open, and forth sallied Mrs. Day, armed with her trusty broom.

"Hands off that flag, you villain, and drop my husband!" she cried, and before the astonished Cunningham could realize the situation, the broom came down thwack! thwack! upon his powdered wig. Old men still lived, not twenty years ago, who were boys in that excited crowd, and remembered how the powder flew from the stiff, white wig, and how amidst jeers and laughter, the defeated provost-marshal withdrew from the unequal contest, and fled before the resistless sweep of Mrs. Day's all-conquering broom.

It is probable that the original account of this "battle" is given by Lossing in his *Field-Book of the Revolution* (vol. ii, note 5, p. 838), which is as follows: —

"The British claimed the right of possession until noon of the day of evacuation. In support of this claim, Cunningham, the infamous provost-marshal exercised his

authority. Dr. Alexander Anderson, of New York, related to me an incident which fell under his own observation. He was then a lad ten years of age, and lived in Murray, near Greenwich, Street. A man who kept a boarding-house opposite ran up the American flag on the morning of the twenty-fifth. Cunningham was informed of the fact, and immediately ordered him to take it down. The man refused, and Cunningham attempted to tear it down. At that moment the wife of the proprietor, a lusty woman of forty, came out with a stout broomstick, and beat Cunningham over the head so vigorously, that he was obliged to decamp, and leave the 'star-spangled banner' still waving. Dr. Anderson remembers seeing the white powder fly from the provost-marshal's wig."

Another incident happened on this day of an interesting nature.

Sir Guy Carleton, K.C.B., commander-in-chief of all his Majesty's forces in the colonies, stood at the foot of the flag-staff on the northern bastion of Fort George. Before him filed the departing troops of his king, evacuating the pleasant little city that they had occupied for over seven years. The waves of the bay sparkled in the sunlight, while the whale-boats, barges, gigs, and launches sped over the water, bearing troops and refugees to the transports, or to the temporary camp on Staten Island. The last act of evacuation was almost completed, and as the commander-in-chief and his staff passed down to the boats, to the strains of martial music, the red cross of St. George, England's royal flag, came fluttering down from its high staff on the northern bastion, and the last of the rear-guard wheeled toward the ship. But Cunningham, the provost-marshal, still angered by the thought of his discomfiture at Day's tavern, declared roundly that no rebel flag should go up that staff in sight of King George's men. "Come, lively now, you blue jackets!"

he shouted, turning to some of the sailors from the fleet. "Unreeve the halyards, quick; slush down the pole; knock off the stepping cleats! Then let them run their flag up if they can."

His orders were quickly obeyed, and the marshal left the now liberated city. In a few minutes, Colonel Jackson, halting before the flag-staff, ordered up the Stars and Stripes.

"The halyards are cut, Colonel," reported the color-sergeant; "the cleats are gone, and the pole is slushed."

"A mean trick, indeed," exclaimed the indignant Colonel. "A gold jacobus to him who will climb the staff, and reeve the halyards for the Stars and Stripes!"

"I want no money for the job," said a young sailor-lad, as he tried it manfully once, twice, thrice, each time slipping down covered with slush and shame. "I'll fix 'em yet," he said. "If ye 'll but saw me up some cleats, I 'll run that flag to the top in spite of all the Tories from 'Sopus to Sandy Hook!"

Ready hands came to the assistance of the plucky lad. Then, tying the halyards around his waist, and filling his jacket pockets with cleats and nails, he worked his way up the flag-pole, nailing and climbing as he went. And now he reaches the top, now the halyards are rove, and as the beautiful flag goes fluttering up the staff, a mighty cheer is heard, and a round of thirteen guns salutes the Stars and Stripes and the brave sailor boy who did the gallant deed.

329. When was the first engagement in the Revolutionary war?

The blood shed at the battle of Lexington is commonly believed and said to be the *first* drawn in the contest of the Colonists with the oppressive authorities of the British Government. Aside from the Boston Massacre, which occurred March 5, 1770, it will be found by reference to the

records of Orange county, North Carolina, that a body of men was formed, called the "Regulators," with the view of resisting the extortion of Colonel Fanning, clerk of the court, and other officers who demanded illegal fees, issued false deeds, levied unauthorized taxes, etc.; that these men went to the court-house at Hillsboro', appointed a schoolmaster named York as clerk, set up a mock judge, and pronounced judgment in mock gravity and ridicule of the court, law, and officers by whom they felt themselves aggrieved; that, soon after, the house, barn, and outbuildings of the judge were burned to the ground; and that Governor Tryon subsequently, with a small force, went to suppress the Regulators, with whom an engagement took place near Alamance Creek, on the road from Hillsboro' to Salisbury, on the sixteenth of May, 1771, — nearly four years before the affair of Lexington, — in which nine Regulators and twenty-seven militia were killed, and many wounded; fourteen of the latter being killed by one man, James Pugh, from behind a rock.

330. Who taught a deaf and dumb boy to speak?

Samuel Heinicke, a German educator, who was born at Nautschütz, near Weissenfels, April 10, 1729, and died at Leipsic, April 30, 1790. At the age of twenty-one, he joined the life-guards of the elector of Saxony, in which he served four years, and taught himself Latin and French. He afterward engaged in teaching, studied for a time at Jena, became a private tutor in Hamburg, and in 1768 chorister at Eppendorf. He had several years previously been successful in teaching deaf mutes, and now taught a deaf and dumb boy to speak. Large numbers of deaf mutes were consequently put under his care, and his reputation became so great that the elector of Saxony solicited him to return to his native country. He went to Leipsic

and on April 14, 1778, opened the first institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb in Germany. He also took great interest in public education, and vigorously attacked the old system of learning by rote. After his death, his wife continued to direct the institution. — Appleton's *Encyclopædia*.

In 1653, Dr. John Wallis, mathematical professor at Oxford, mentions that he had instructed two deaf mutes to articulate distinctly.

Jonathan Whipple, who was born in Preston, New London county, Connecticut, in the year 1794, is called "the self-taught teacher of deaf mutes." He never attended school, taught himself, opened school, — becoming a successful teacher, — and then instructed a deaf mute *to talk*. He met with much opposition from the teachers of sign-language, but he persevered in his good work and taught others additionally as well. If he did not cause the deaf to hear, he caused the dumb to talk, and let in encouragement and sunlight upon many otherwise desolate lives.

331. How much older is Delaware than Rhode Island?

Two years, five months, and twenty-two days, as the former ratified, unanimously, the Constitution on December 7, 1787; the latter, by a majority of two, on May 29, 1790.

332. Did George Washington ever see a steamboat?

James Rumsey, an American inventor, born at Bohemia Manor, Cecil county, Maryland, about 1743, died in London, England, December 23, 1792. In September 1784, he exhibited on the Potomac, *in the presence of General Washington*, a boat which worked against the stream by means of mechanism. He subsequently gave his attention to steam

as a motive power, and in March, 1786, propelled a boat on the Potomac by a steam engine, which secured motion by the force of a stream of water thrown out by a pump at the stern. In December, 1787, the experiment was successfully repeated on a larger scale. — Appleton's *Encyclopædia*.

333. Who first proposed a ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama?

Samuel Champlain, — the founder of Quebec (July 3, 1608) and the discoverer of the lake (1609) bearing his name, — before Virginia was settled.

334. Why did no person die in England between September 3 and September 14, 1752?

Great Britain did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until September, 1752, when, as eleven days had been lost, it was necessary to call the third of September the fourteenth, in order to bring the calendar and the seasons once more together. Consequently the two days are one and the same. This was done by act of Parliament, and leads to what is called Old Style and New Style. Prior to that time, the year had commenced on the twenty-eighth of March, but it was at the passage of the above law enacted that from and after the last day of December, 1751, the year should commence on the first day of January. This gives rise to such dates as 1764–5, etc. And, so long as both styles were used, this was necessary to prevent a misunderstanding of a whole year.

335. Which is the largest sea bird known?

The Albatross, which weighs from twelve to twenty-eight pounds, with wings that are usually eleven feet from tip to

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tip; but a specimen in the Leverian museum measures thirteen feet, and one was shot off the Cape of Good Hope that was seventeen and a half feet in extent.

336. What is the origin of "Filibuster"?

Max Müller states that *filibuster*, the signification of which is a freebooter or pirate, is derived from the Spanish word *filibote*, a fast-sailing vessel; and that the Spanish word itself is a corruption of the English word *flyboat*. *Filibuster* is a word of Spanish origin about synonymous with *buccaneer*. In Holland is a little river called *Vly*, the peculiar sailing vessels on which are called *filibotes*. The word *filibostero* or *filibustier* was coined from the appellation, and became the designation of the adventurers under Lopez, who invaded Cuba in 1851. The soldiers of Kinney and Walker in Central America were also thus entitled; and filibuster became naturalized in colloquial and reporter's English, first as a noun and then as a verb. It is slang, however. *Filibustering* is a cant term much used of late years in the legislative assemblies of the United States to designate the employment of parliamentary tactics to defeat a measure by raising frivolous questions of order, calls of the house, motions to adjourn, etc., in order to weary out the opposite party, or to gain time.

337. Why have July and August each thirty-one days?

In the distribution of the days through the several months, Julius Cæsar adopted a simpler and more commodious arrangement than that which has since prevailed. He had ordered that the first, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh months, that is, January, March, May, July, September, and November, should each have thirty-one days,

and the other months thirty, excepting February, which in common years should have only twenty-nine, but every fourth year, thirty days. This order was interrupted to gratify the vanity of Augustus (died A. D. 14), by giving the month bearing his name as many days as July, which had been named after the first Cæsar. A day was taken accordingly, from February and given to August; and in order that three months of thirty-one days might not come together, September and November were reduced to thirty days and thirty-one given to October and December. For so frivolous a reason was the regulation of Cæsar abandoned, and a capricious arrangement introduced, which it requires some attention to remember.

338. Who discovered that a copper wire is a magnet when a current of electricity flows through it?

Arago, in 1820, discovered that while a galvanic current is passing through a copper wire it is capable of developing magnetism in soft iron, and thus made possible the electro-magnet.

339. Is there any word in any language in which the letter "y" is doubled?

We know of none. A very interesting table is given in the *Smithsonian Reports* for 1873, p. 186, as to the number of times a letter in different languages doubles itself in 10,000 words; and of the five languages, English, French, Italian, German, and Latin, the spaces for "w," "x," and "y" are left blank. The results given in this investigation are of importance in determining the casting of double types. The number of occurrences of a given letter in 10,000 words of any language determines the number of types of that letter in a font.

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340. Why is fresh water sometimes frozen in pipes submerged in salt water?

Because a lower temperature is required to freeze salt water than fresh. Sea water will not freeze at 28° F., but fresh water freezes at 32° F., hence salt water outside the pipe may remain liquid while fresh water within is frozen.

341. Where is there an obelisk to Logan?

In Fort Hill Cemetery, at Auburn, New York, with the inscription: "Who is there to mourn for Logan!" This Iroquois chief was born near that city. Close to his sepulcher is the burial lot of the Hon. W. H. Seward.

342. To what "plain Quaker" did the Czar of Russia give a diamond ring? Why?

In 1819, Jethro Wood made the first cast-iron plow, and the Autocrat of the Russias sent him this testimonial of his appreciation of a much-needed invention.

343. Where are the following historic castles, and for what tragic or important event is each one famous: *Cardiff, Pontefract, Fotheringay,* and *Carisbrooke?*

Cardiff Castle is on the River Taff in Glamorganshire, and from its commanding position has probably been an important fortress ever since the Roman occupation of Britain. In any case it was a stronghold of the Normans, and here Robert, duke of Normandy, eldest son of William the Conqueror, was imprisoned twenty-eight years (1106–1134). The length of his imprisonment is a mooted question. The *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 9th ed., vol. v, p. 92, states that Robert was kept in Cardiff Castle twenty-six years till he died, 1134. Smith, in his smaller *History of England*, p. 37,

says twenty-eight years. In Freeman's *History of England*, p. 43, it is stated that Robert died in 1135, and such statement is given by many others. Collier, in *British History*, p. 56, writes that Robert was in prison thirty years and died in 1134. The Duke was defeated at Tenchbrai in 1106, and the *probability* is that twenty-eight years is the correct statement.

Pontefract (pro. *Pompret*) Castle was the scene of the *reputed* murder of Richard II.; but much doubt hangs over that transaction.

Fotheringay Castle is noted as the birthplace of Richard III., and the scene of the imprisonment, trial, and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, in February, 1587.

Carisbrooke Castle, on the isle of Wight, is said to have been a British and Roman fortress, and was taken by Cerdic, founder of the kingdom of the West Saxons, in 530. Its Norman character has been ascribed to William Fitz-Osborne, earl of Hereford, in William I.'s time. Here Charles I. was imprisoned in 1647, and here died his daughter Elizabeth, aged fifteen, probably of a broken heart, September 8, 1650.

344. What Greek woman went to Athens disguised as a man to attend the lectures of Plato?

Axiothea, who lived about 300 B.C. and also Lasthenia.

345. Who first conjectured the spheroidal form of the earth?

It appears that Robert Hooke (July 18, 1635–March 3, 1703) had conjectured that the figure of the earth might be spheroidal before Newton or Huyghens turned their attention to the subject. At a meeting of the Royal Society on the twenty-eighth of February, 1678, a dis-

cussion arose respecting the figure of Mercury, which M. Gallet, of Avignon, had remarked to be oval on the occasion of the planet's transit across the sun's disk on the seventh of November, 1677. Hooke was inclined to suppose that the phenomenon was real, and that it was due to the whirling of the planet on an axis, "which made it somewhat of the shape of a turnip, or of a solid made by an ellipsis turned round upon its shorter diameter." At the meeting of the society on the seventh of March, the subject was again discussed. In reply to the objection offered to his hypothesis on the ground of the planet being a solid body, Hooke remarked that "although it might now be solid, yet at the beginning it might have been fluid enough to receive that shape; and that although this supposition should not be granted, it would be probable enough that it would really run into that shape, and make the same appearance; and that it is not improbable but that the water here upon the earth might do it in some measure by the influence of the diurnal motion, which, compounded with that of the moon, he conceived to be the cause of the tides."

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346. What insects are injurious to books and what is the remedy?

Representatives of not less than six orders of Arthropods are more or less injurious. Among the mites, is the common *Cheyletus eruditus*, which attacks paper in damp places. Among the Thysanura, the *Lepisma saccharina*, which is found in closets, etc., where provisions are kept, feeds also on paper, but leaves untouched that which is covered by printing-ink. This species was not known until a few years ago to be at all injurious to paper or books. Of the Neuroptera, the termites are injurious to paper and books as well as to many other substances. Of the Orthoptera, as is well

known, the cockroaches (Blattidæ) frequently commit considerable ravages. Of the Lepidoptera, the caterpillars of *Aglossa pinguinalis* and *Depressaria* frequently do damage by spinning their webs between the volumes, and also by gnawing the paper with which they form their cocoons. Among the beetles are several species. The *Hypothenemus eruditus*, a very minute species, excavates tiny burrows within the binding. The death-watches (*Anobium pertinax* and *Anobium striatum*) surpass in their ravages all other species, gnawing and boring not only through the pages of the volumes, but also through the binding. M. Peignot mentions an instance of twenty-seven folio volumes (in a public library but little frequented), which, placed together on a shelf, had been so completely drilled, that a string might be run through the perfectly round hole made by these insects. As an antidote to the attacks of these insects, and preventive of such, vaporization is suggested: The infected volumes may be placed in a large glass case made as close as possible, and therein likewise may be set small saucers containing benzine, or a sponge saturated with carbolic acid. "A strong infusion of colocynth and quassia, chloroform, spirits of turpentine, expressed juice of green walnuts, and pyroligneous acid have also been employed successfully. Fumigation on a large scale may also be adopted, by filling the room with fumes of brimstone, prussic acid, or benzine; or an infected volume may be placed under the bell glass of an air-pump, and extracting the air, the larvæ will be found to be killed after an hour's exhaustion."

347. What is the meaning of the word "Assassin"?

A corruption of the word *hashshasheen*, a name applied to the notorious military and religious sect that flourished under Sheykh-el-Gebel (Old Man of the Mountains), or

Hassan. When he required the service of any of his people, he first intoxicated them with *hasheen* or India hemp; and when the fumes of the weed had transported them into a fools' paradise, they were ready for any deed of blood.

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348. How far can flying fishes fly?

C. O. Whitman in an article in the *American Naturalist* demonstrates from actual observation during a voyage from San Francisco to Yokohama that "flying fish do fly," and gives a very interesting and detailed account of their movements while in motion through the air. Professor D. S. Jordan also carefully examined the flight of an *Exocœtus* (*E. californicus*) in the waters of Southern California. He observed it best "in early morning when both air and water were free from motion." "On rising from the water the movements of the tail are continued for some seconds until the whole body is out of the water. While the tail is in motion the pectorals are in a state of very rapid vibration, and the ventrals are folded. When the action of the tail ceases, the pectorals and ventrals are spread, and, as far as we can see, *held at rest*. When the fish begins to fall, the tail touches the water and the motion of the pectorals recommences, and it is enabled to resume its flight, which it finally finishes by falling in the water with a splash." The flight was thought to sometimes extend to "nearly a quarter of a mile."

349. What Governor of Massachusetts had twenty brothers?

Sir William Phipps (or Phips), who was one of twenty-six children; twenty-one of whom were boys. He was born in Woolwich, Maine, February 2, 1651, and died in London, February 18, 1695.

In 1684, he went to England to procure means to recover a Spanish treasure-ship wrecked near the Bahamas. With a national vessel furnished him by the Admiralty he did not succeed; but during a second attempt, for which the means were supplied by the Duke of Albemarle, he recovered treasure to the amount of £300,000, one twentieth of this sum, or £15,000, being given to him as his share. As an additional reward he was knighted and appointed "high sheriff" of New England. In 1692, through the influence of Cotton Mather (1663-1728), he was appointed captain-general and governor-in-chief of the province.

350. Why does a body fall east of a vertical line?

A body does not fall in a perfectly vertical direction because the point from which it falls, in consequence of its greater distance from the earth's center, describes a greater circle than the point to which it falls. It will, therefore, strike a point somewhat to the east—about one fourth of an inch for a fall of 150 feet. In a fall of five hundred feet, in the latitude of Chicago, the distance east of a vertical line from the place whence it fell would be about a third of an inch.

351. What is the name of the longest street in Paris.

Rue des Pyrenées, which is 11,345 feet in length; the shortest thoroughfare, Rue Brognart, being only seventy-five feet in length.

352. For what is the Tarpeian Rock in Rome noted?

Traitors were precipitated headlong from this historic rock, during the "palmy days" of Rome, being dashed to pieces on the rocks below. The level of the ground at the

base has so risen within the past dozen centuries that the last attempted suicide (for it has become famous for such attempts) received only a few bruises.

353. What American officer of the Revolution was kept a prisoner at Jamaica?

Colonel William Moultrie, who was born in South Carolina in 1731, and died in Charleston, September 27, 1805. In the spring of 1780, Charleston was attacked for the third time by a strong land and sea force, and Moultrie, who was second in command, shared in the capitulation of the American troops. While a prisoner, he was approached by the British officers with offers of pecuniary compensation and the command of a British regiment stationed in Jamaica, if he would leave the American service. He replied: "Not the fee simple of all Jamaica should induce me to part with my integrity." He was made Major-General on October 15, 1782. In 1785, he was elected Governor of South Carolina, and again in 1794.

354. To whom were raised 360 brazen statues?

Demetrius Phalereus, a distinguished Athenian orator, statesman, and writer, who ruled the city for ten years with great popularity, was compelled to flee, and all his statues were thrown down except one (307 B.C.). He was the last of the great orators of Greece.

355. By whom was Epaminondas wounded?

The fatal dart was thrown by the hand of Gryllus, son of Xenophon, the historian, and leader of the ten thousand Greeks on their retreat from the battle-field of Cunaxa to the Black Sea. Gryllus was soon after killed in this battle of Mantinea (B.C. 363). Shortly after the javelin was

extracted from the breast of Epaminondas he expired, exclaiming, "All is well!"

356. Why is the nine of diamonds called "The curse of Scotland"?

There are many solutions to this question; a few are given: —

(1) In the distracted state of the country during the reign of Mary, a man named George Campbell attempted to steal the crown out of Elizabeth Castle. He did not succeed in getting away with the crown itself, but did manage to abstract nine valuable diamonds, and to get off with them out of the country. To replace these, a heavy tax was laid upon the people, which, being found burdensome and oppressive, was by them termed the *Curse of Scotland;* and until quite recently, in certain districts of Scotland, the card itself was called "George Campbell."

(2) It is also said that diamonds imply royalty, being ornaments to the imperial crown, and every ninth king of Scotland has been observed for many ages to be a tyrant, and a curse to that country.

(3) Another explanation relates to the massacre of Glencoe. The order for this cruel deed was signed by the eldest son of the Earl of Stair, who was at that time Secretary of State for Scotland. The coat-of-arms of this family bears nine diamonds on its shield; and the indignant people, not daring to stigmatize the Lord of Stair as the Curse of Scotland, applied the term to his shield.

(4) Still another solution, and equally good, relates to the battle of Culloden, the result of which extinguished the hopes of the Stuarts, and was at that time regarded as a national curse. The Duke of Cumberland, who was known to be very fond of cards, and who always carried a pack in

his pocket, when he had made his victory of Culloden complete, took a card and wrote thereon a despatch announcing his victory; and that card proved to be the *Nine of Diamonds.*

(5) When the Duke of York, who shortly after became James II., took up his residence at Edinburgh, and enlarged the palace of Holyrood, he and his court introduced there a new game called "Cornette," in which the nine of diamonds is the most important card. The Scots, who had to learn the game, lost tremendous sums in playing it, and from that circumstance the nine of diamonds was called the Curse of Scotland.

(6) It is also stated that on the night preceding the battle of Culloden, the Duke of Cumberland sent orders to General Campbell to give no quarter to the soldiers of the Pretender; that this order being despatched in great haste, happened to be written on a card, and that card the nine of diamonds.

(7) Among old whist-players, the nine of diamonds is often called "the curse of Scotland." It is probably a corruption of the phrase "Cross of Scotland"; and as the nine "pips" on the card were formerly printed somewhat in the shape of a St. Andrew's cross, there seems reason for believing this to be the true origin.

(8) Some say that the "nine of diamonds," in the game Pope Juan, is called the pope, the antichrist of the Scotch reformers.

(9) Its origin is owing, it is said, to a Scotch Member of Parliament, part of whose family arms was the nine of diamonds, having voted for the introduction of the malt tax into that country.

(10) In the *Oracle; or, Resolver of Questions*, 1770, it is stated that the crown of Scotland had but nine diamonds, and they were never able to get more.

(11) This card is so called in allusion to the arms of Colonel Packer (Gules across lozenge), who guarded Charles I. on the scaffold, and was hated for his severities in Scotland.

The story of "the Butcher Duke" of Cumberland having written an order for the execution of a large number of Jacobites after the battle of Culloden, or any other sanguinary message, has been disproved by Dr. Houstoun.

357. What is the origin of the phrase: "A little bird told me"?

It is doubtless to be found in Ecclesiastes, x, 20: "Curse not the king, no, not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bed-chamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

358. Who were "The Wise Men of Gotham?"

In Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire*, vol. i, pp. 42, 43, the origin of the general opinion about the wisdom of these worthies is thus given, as handed down by tradition: —

"King John, intending to pass through Gotham towards Nottingham, was prevented by the inhabitants, they apprehending that the ground over which a king passed was for ever after to become a public road. The king, incensed at their proceedings, sent from his court, soon afterwards, some of his servants to inquire of them the reason of their incivility and ill-treatment, that he might punish them. The villagers hearing of the approach of the king's servants, thought of an expedient to turn away his majesty's displeasure from them. When the messengers arrived at Gotham, they found some of the inhabitants engaged in endeavoring to drown an eel in a pool of water; some were employed in dragging carts upon a large barn, to shade the

wood from the sun; and others were engaged in hedging a cuckoo, which had perched itself upon an old bush. In short, they were all employed upon some foolish way or other, which convinced the king's servants that it was a village of fools."

359. What is meant by the saying, "Cæsar's wife must be above suspicion"?

The name of Pompeia, the wife of Julius Cæsar, having been mixed up with an accusation against P. Clodius, her husband divorced her; not, as he said, because he believed the charge against her, but because he would have those belonging to him as free from suspicion as from crime.

360. Who is the author of the famous line, "Like angels' visits, few and far between"?

Thomas Campbell (1777–1844), in his *Pleasures of Hope*, writes "Like angel-visits, few and far between," but he evidently copied from Robert Blair (1699–1747), who, in *The Grave*, wrote:—

> "The good he scorned
> Stalked off reluctant, like an illus'd ghost,
> Not to return; or, if it did, in visits
> Like those of angels, short and far between."

And a similar line is found in *The Parting* of John Norris (1657–1711): "Like angels' visits, short and bright." In Norris's *Miscellanies*, in a poem "*To the memory of my dear Neece* [*sic.*], M. C." (stanza A, p. 10, ed. 1692), are the following lines:—

> "No wonder such a noble mind
> Her way to heaven so soon could find;
> Angels, as 't is but seldom they appear,
> So neither do they make long stay;
> They do but visit, and away."

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361. What is the famous "lifting experiment"?

A living man, lying on a bench, extended as a corpse, can be lifted with ease by the *forefingers* of two persons standing on each side, provided the lifters inhale at the moment the effort is being made. This curious fact was recorded by Samuel Pepys in his *Diary*, under the date of July 31, 1665.

362. How did "punch" derive its name?

The following extract is taken from Fryer's *Travels to the East Indies*, 1672: —

"At Nerule (near Goa) is made the best arach, or *nepa die Goa*, with which the English on this coast make that enervating liquor called *paunch* (which is Indostan for five), from five ingredients, as the physicians name this composition *diapente;* or from four things, *diatesseron.*"

363. What noted chair is there in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, England?

One made from the ship of Sir Francis Drake, the Ferry Boy, who was one of the founders of English naval power, the eldest of twelve brothers and the son of a most worthy sailor named Edmund Drake. Francis was born at Tavistock, in Devonshire, in the year 1545. He acquired his greatest fame by driving back and dispersing the ships of the Invincible Armada, which had been fitted out by Philip of Spain, to conquer England. After completing the circumnavigation of the globe, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth who dined with the celebrated mariner, on board his ship, off Deptford, in the Thames, — at the conclusion of the repast. Even to this day the name of Drake is honored in Plymouth, and spoken with affection, and his memory is drank daily in draughts of crystalline water; for he devoted the savings of his life to the construction of an

aqueduct which brings a supply of water from the Tors of Dartmouth to the town. He died at sea, near Portobello, December 27, 1595, and his body was committed to the waters of the great deep, on which so much of his life was spent.

364. What was the sign of a wine-shop at Pompeii?

A pig over the door. The middle ages adopted a bush. "Good wine needs no bush," etc., answering to the gilded grapes at a modern vintner's. The bush is still a common sign. At Charles I.'s death a cavalier landlord painted his bush black. Then came the modern square sign, formerly common to all trades.

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365. What are *cutty pipes?*

The term is Scotch, *cutty* being a word which means little or short. Thus, a little girl is called a *cutty;* there are *cutty pipes* and *cutty spoons;* and the readers of Burns need not be reminded of the scantily-draped lady who is styled *cutty-sark.*

366. Who are the three tobacco-takers?

The African rock goat — the most loathsome creature on earth; the foul tobacco worm; and the rational creature, man! So says Dr. Caldwell.

367. What is the meaning of "True Blue"?

This is a Spanish phrase, and refers to the notion that real aristocratic families have blue blood in their veins, while the blood of inferior persons approaches more or less to a black hue. Hence the French phrases, *sang bleu* (aristocratic blood) and *sang noir* (commoners' blood).

368. Whose snuff-box sold for thirty dollars?

Sir Walter Raleigh's snuff-box, out of which he took a pinch on the scaffold, was in constant use by the Duke of Sussex, and was knocked down at his sale for £6.

369. Who was the Boy Bachelor?

William Wotton, D. D. (1666–1726), was admitted at St. Catherine's Hall before he was ten, and took his B. A. when he was twelve and a half.

370. What Queen of England was called "Brandy Nan"?

Queen Anne, who was very fond of brandy. On the statue of Queen Anne in St. Paul's church-yard a wit wrote: —

> "Brandy Nan, Brandy Nan, left in the lurch,
> Her face to the gin-shop, her back to the church."

On the site of Dakin's tea-shop stood a "gin-palace" at that time.

371. Who was called the "Bravest of the Brave"?

Marshal Ney (1769–1815). So called by the troops of Friedland (1807), on account of his fearless bravery. Napoleon said of him: "That man is a lion."

372. Who was the *Briareus* of languages?

Cardinal Mezzofanti (1744–1849) who knew fifty-eight different tongues. Byron (1788–1824) called him "a walking polyglot; a monster of languages; a Briareus of parts of speech." — Briareus was a giant with fifty heads and a hundred hands. Homer states that the gods called him by this name, but men called him Ægeon. — *Iliad*, i, 403.

373. How did the *buttercup* get its name?

From the old supposition that it would increase the butter of milk. No doubt those cows give the best milk that pasture in fields where buttercups abound, not because these flowers produce butter, for cows never eat them, but because they grow only on sound, dry, old pastures, which afford the best food.

374. Who was the swiftest of all runners?

Camilla, the virgin queen of the Volscians. Virgil writes that she was so swift that she could run over a field of corn without bending a single blade, or make her way over the sea without even wetting her feet:—

"Not so when swift Camilla scours the plain
Flies o'er the unbending corn and skims along the main."

Pope.

375. What river had the power of inspiring those who drank from its waters?

Castaly, the river of poetic inspiration, is a fountain of Parnassus sacred to the Muses, and its waters are said to have possessed this power.

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376. What was the signature of Columbus?

S.	that is	Servidor.
S. A. S.		Sus Altezas Sacras.
X. M. Y.		Jesus Maria Isabel.
Xpo. Ferens.		Christo-pher.
El Almirante.		El Almirante.

In English: "Servant — of their Sacred Highnesses — Jesus, Maria, and Isabella — Christopher — The Admiral."

Christo-pher means Christ Bearing. His heirs — it was provided in the discoverer's will — should sign with "an S with an X under it, and an M with a Roman A over it.

and over that an S, and a great Y with an S over it, with its lines and points — as is my custom — he shall only write 'The Admiral,' whatever title the king may have conferred upon him." Captain Becher, recalling that it was to Isabella that Columbus owed his success, read the initials as above given.

377. What is the story of the Kilkenny cats?

That two cats fought in a sawpit so ferociously, that when the battle was over, only the tail of each was left. This is an allegory of the municipalities of Kilkenny and Irishtown, who contended so stoutly about boundaries and rights, to the end of the seventeenth century, that they mutually impoverished each other — ate up each other, leaving only a tail behind.

378. What is the origin of "To let the cat out of the bag"?

It was formerly a trick among country people in England to substitute a cat for a sucking-pig, and bring it in a bag to market. If any greenhorn chose to buy a "pig in a poke" without examination, all very well, but if he opened the sack, "he let the cat out of the bag," and the trick was disclosed.

379. What fugitive king concealed himself in an oak-tree?

When Charles II. fled from the Parliamentary army, he took refuge in Boscobel-house, but when he deemed it no longer safe to remain there, he concealed himself in an oak. Dr. Stukely states that this tree "stood just by a horse-track passing through the wood, and the king, with Colonel

Carlos, climbed into it by means of the hen-roost ladder. The family reached them victuals with a nut-hook."—*Itinerarium Curiosum*, 1724, iii, p. 57.

380. What author was born on board of a slave-ship?

Ignatius Sancho, an African writer, who died in London, aged fifty-one, on December 14, 1780. His *Letters* possess great originality.

381. What American General reported that he had been "seven months in the field without taking off his clothes one night"?

General Greene, who, on the fourteenth of December, 1781, additionally informed Congress that he had been unable to advance on the British for ten days for want of ammunition; that he had not paper with which to make returns, no camp-kettles, etc.; that he lay within a few miles of the enemy, and had not six rounds per man.

382. When was the Indian town of Mississinewa attacked?

This village, inhabited by Delawares and Miamis, was attacked by six hundred Americans under Colonel Campbell, on the seventeenth of December, 1812. The town, with several others in the vicinity, was burnt.

383. What ruler began his reign by ordering nineteen of his brothers to be strangled?

Mahomet III., Sultan of Turkey, who died of the plague, December 20, 1603. In beginning his reign, he also ordered ten of his father's wives to be drowned. He invaded

Hungary with an army of two hundred thousand men, but after some successes his progress was checked and he sued in vain for peace.

384. When was the most desperate naval battle fought?

On the twenty-third of December, 1757, the British privateer *Terrible*, Captain William *Death* (who had *Devil* for his lieutenant, and *Ghost* for his surgeon), of twenty-six guns and two hundred men, captured a large French ship, after an obstinate battle, in which he lost his brother and sixteen men killed. A few days after, he fell in with the privateer *Vengeance*, thirty-six guns and three hundred and sixty men, who recaptured the prize, and, having manned her, both ships bore down on the *Terrible*, whose main was shot away by the first broadside. After a desperate engagement, in which the French captain and his lieutenant were killed, with two thirds of his crew, the *Terrible* was boarded, when no more than twenty-six persons were found alive, sixteen of whom had lost an arm or a leg, the remaining ten being badly wounded. The ship, which had been equipped at *Execution* dock, was so shattered that it could scarcely be kept above water.

385. Who was the wife of Martin Luther?

Catharine Von Bora, who died December 27, 1552. She was rescued from a nunnery with eight others, by the assistance of the great reformer, whom she survived several years.

386. Who was liberated in exchange for General Burgoyne?

Henry Laurens, ambassador from the United States to France, on the last day of the year 1781.

387. Who was a "good poet" but a "poor shoemaker"?

William Gifford, an English poet and reviewer, who rose from a shoemaker's bench to an editor's chair, where he acquired fame and fortune. He died December 31, 1826.

388. When were slaves first brought to Virginia?

The only *authority* is Captain John Smith, who, in his General History, states: "*About the last of August* [1619], *came in a dutch man of warre that sold us twenty nigars.*"

389. Who was Corinth's pedagogue?

Dionysius, the younger, on being banished a second time from Syracuse, went to Corinth and became a schoolmaster. He is called Dionysius, the *tyrant*. Hence Lord Byron says of Napoleon:—

> "Corinth's pedagogue hath now
> Transferred his by-word to thy brow."

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390. What is the signification of "I have a crow to pick with you"?

In Howell's proverbs (1659) we find the following: "I have a *goose* to pluck with you," used in the same sense; and Chaucer has the phrase "Pull a *finch*," but means, thereby, to cheat or filch. Children of distinction among the Greeks and Romans had birds for their amusement, and in their boyish quarrels used to pluck or pull the feathers out of each other's pets. Tyndarus, in his *Captives*, alludes to this, but instances it with a *lapwing*. In hieroglyphics, a crow symbolizes contention, discord, strife.

391. Who first said: "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip"?

It is told of Ancæus II., King of Samos, and son of Neptune and Astypalæa, that he paid particular attention to the cultivation of the vine, and on one occasion was told by a slave, whom he was pressing with hard labor in his vineyard, that he would never taste of its produce. After the vintage had been gathered in, and the wine made, Ancæus, in order to falsify his prediction, was about to raise a cup of the liquor to his lips, deriding, at the same time, the pretended prophet (who, however, merely told him in reply that there were many things between the cup and the lip), when tidings came that a boar had broken into his vineyard. Throwing down the cup, with the untasted liquor, Ancæus rushed forth to meet the animal, and lost his life in the encounter. Hence arose the Greek proverb,* "Πολλὰ μεταξὺ πελεῖ κύλικὸς καὶ χεῖλεος ἄκρον." "Multa cadunt inter calicem supremaque labra;" ("Many things fall between cup and lips"), which is the Latin translation by Erasmus.

392. Who became king by the neighing of his horse?

After the death of Smerdis, the Magian, seven princes of Persia agreed that they would ride to the top of a hill in the early morning, and that he should be king whose horse first neighed. At the first glimpse of sunrise, the horse of Darius, the son of Hystaspes, of the royal family, was the first to neigh, and Darius was proclaimed king. This good fortune of Darius arose from the fact principally that his

* This Greek aphorism does not admit of a very literal and elegant rendering in English, but its meaning is equivalent to the Latin.

groom had, daily, previous to this memorable morning, taken his master's horse, before daylight, to the appointed place of meeting.

393. What are "crocodile tears"?

Hypocritical tears. The tale is, that crocodiles moan and sigh, like a person in deep distress, to allure travellers to the spot, and even shed tears over their prey while in the act of devouring it.

394. How did the shamrock come into use as a badge?

It is said that it was introduced by Patrick M'Alpine, since called St. Patrick, as a simile of the Trinity, 432. Failing to make them (the Irish) understand his words, he showed them a stem of clover or trefoil, thereby exhibiting an ocular demonstration of the possibility of three uniting into one, and one into three.

395. When was the "short-lived" administration?

In England, this term is applied to that of William Pulteney, the earl of Bath, Lord Carlisle, Lord Winchelsea, and Lord Granville, which existed from February 10 to February 12, 1746.

396. Who began the slave-trade?

The importation of slaves from Congo and Angola was commenced by the Portuguese in 1481. The slave-trade of England was begun by Sir John Hawkins, before mentioned, a celebrated navigator, who defrayed the expenses of Francis Drake's education.

397. Who was the first suicide?

The first instance recorded in Jewish history is that of Samson about 1120 B.C. Saul also killed himself in 1055 B.C. The only instance recorded in early Roman history occurs in the reign of Tarquin I., when the soldiers thinking themselves disgraced by being ordered to make common sewers, destroyed themselves, 606 B.C.

398. What was the origin of the beautiful groves of sycamore in Scotland?

In Mrs. Jameson's *Memoirs of Female Sovereigns*, we are told that Mary, Queen of Scots, brought over from France a little sycamore-tree, which she planted in the gardens at Holyrood, and from this sprang the groves so abundant in that country. This tree is also known as the Egyptian fig-tree.

399. Where is Tchernaya?

It is a river in the Crimea. At this place on August 16, 1855, an attack was made upon the allied army by 50,000 Russians under Prince Gortschakoff, the latter being repulsed with the loss of 3,329 slain, 1,658 wounded, and 600 prisoners. The allies lost about 1,200, of whom 200 were from the Sardinian contingent which fought with great bravery under the command of General La Mamora. The Russian General Read and the Sardinian General Montevecchio were killed. The brunt of the attack (whose object was the relief of Sebastopol) was borne by two French regiments under General D'Herbillon.

400. Who was the original Tammany?

A great chief of the Delaware Indians who lies buried near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He is represented as

being the possessor of many virtues, and politicians, about the close of the Revolution, called him St. Tammany, and chose him as the patron saint of the new republic. Tammany societies were formed and Tammany halls were erected by Republicans, and on May-day, the instituted festival of the saint, meetings of the society were held. Heckewelder, the Indian missionary, writes: "On that day, numerous societies of his votaries walked together in procession through the streets of Philadelphia, their hats decorated with bucks' tails, and proceeded to a handsome rural place out of town which they called the *wigwam*, where, after a long talk or Indian speech had been delivered, and the calumet of peace and friendship had been duly smoked, they spent the day in festivity and mirth."

401. Why was the Temple of Piety built?

It was built by Acilius on the spot (?) where once a woman had fed with her milk her aged father, whom the senate had imprisoned, and excluded from all aliments in commemoration of the fact. The large painting representative of this is well-known to every *habitué* of the Boston Museum.

402. What generals gained three victories in a single day?

Cimon, the son of Miltiades, and Zachary Taylor. General Winfield Scott, on August 20, 1847, gained *five* victories in a single day while marching to the City of Mexico.

403. Where was the first theatre in America built?

The first regular theatrical company seen in America came from England, in 1752, landed at York, in Virginia,

and, by permission of Governor Dinwiddie, opened a playhouse at Williamsburg, then the capital of the Old Dominion. The first play performed in America, by a regular company, was at that rude theatre, on September 5, 1752. The company next opened a theatre at Annapolis, Maryland, the same year, and there the first regular theatre in America was erected. On the seventeenth of September, 1753, the same company opened a theatre in New York, where Sir Richard Steele's play of *The Conscious Lovers* was performed. The manager, Hallam, being solicited to open a theatre in Philadelphia, went there in April, 1754, and began, in a storehouse, with *The Fair Penitent*. Such was the beginning of theatricals in the United States.

404. Who was Mary Hamilton?

The defendant in a remarkable trial held in England, October 7, 1746, she being accused of marrying with her own sex to the extent of having fourteen wives.

405. When was the Valteline Massacre?

On the twentieth of July, 1620. A general massacre of the Protestants by the Roman Catholics, who revolted against the government, began at Tirano, extended to all the district, and lasted three days. Valteline (Switzerland) is now a part of Austrian Italy.

406. If leaves are the lungs of plants, how do leafless plants respire?

One important character of the epidermis of plants is the presence of stomata or breathing-pores. These exist abundantly in the stems and leaves. Then, in the leafless tree, the stem performs the office of breathing.

407. What plant produces *sixty-six millions* of cells in a minute?

The *Bovista gigantea*, a fungus plant, grows in one night from the size of a pea to that of an average watermelon. Its increase of cells per minute has been estimated to be 66,000,000. Other fungi grow surprisingly fast.

408. What animal is noted for the "golden tint of its skin"?

The Jackal (*canis aureus*). Also the Roseate Spoonbill, a representative of the *plataleidæ*, at the age of four or five is of a beautiful rose color, with carmine wing and tail-coverts, and has a naked head with *golden-yellow skin* shading into glossy black around the top of the neck. The fur of the mole (*chrysochloridæ*) shines with rich metallic tints of variable hues.

409. What animal never perspires?

The dog. Not even in the hottest weather is he ever "bathed in perspiration." He drinks by lapping, and thus avoids the danger of swallowing large quantities of cold water when the body is overheated.

410. What animal indulges in the pastime of sliding down snow-banks in winter and clay-banks in summer?

The river otter (*lutra canadensis*). Its pastime of sliding in companies into the water, additional to that stated in the query, presents a singular feature of animal life.

411. What animal is supposed to have a sixth sense?

The bat. Its eye is small and apparently of little service, and as it flits among bushes and intricate passages when

blinded, some zoölogists have been led to the conclusion that it possessed an additional sense.

412. What is the difference between a Bison and a Buffalo?

The bison is an American animal, the buffalo an Old-World animal, and the distinction between it and the bison is its close resemblance to the common ox.

413. To what animal is the name Unicorn sometimes applied?

The single-horned rhinoceros. The animal corresponding to the Unicorn of Scripture is thought to be the *Arus* or wild ox.

414. Why has the metal Tungsten the symbol *W*?

It was first called after its discoverer *Wolfram*, and was given *W* for its symbol. When the name of the metal was changed to the present appellation, it still retained its original characterization.

415. What is the "herbivorous whale?"

The *Manatee*, or sea cow, of the Florida coast, which feeds upon aquatic plants. Similar to the elephant, it has a short neck, dense bones, and the nostril in the end of the snout. It has no hind limbs, and its fore limbs are flippers, with vestiges of nails on the edges, enabling it to crawl on the shore.

416. How often do birds moult their feathers?

Moulting usually begins soon after the breeding season, although there are besides a second and third partial

moulting sometimes. In individual cases, as in that of the swallow, moulting does not take place until near winter, but in migratory birds it occurs so that the bird will have a supply of new feathers in aid to the journey it may wish to make in going to a warmer climate.

417. How is the plumage of birds rendered water-proof?

Birds are furnished on the rump with two glands, in which a quantity of unctuous matter is constantly secreting. This is occasionally pressed out by the bill and is used in lubricating the feathers. Domestic birds do not have this fluid in so great a supply, owing to artificial coverings in time of rain, and this explains the greatly ruffled appearance of poultry at such times.

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418. What bird has no tail?

The *Apteryx* (*apterygidæ*). Its feathers look like fur. For incubation it digs deep holes in the ground, into which it flees when pursued, — which is characteristic of the lowest order of mammals.

419. What forms the "wish-bone" of birds?

Breast-bone of a fowl.

420. Where is the bird "without wings" to be found?

The Kiwi Kiwi (*Apteryx*), or the bird without wings, is found *only* in New Zealand. It is extremely fleet of foot, and hard to capture. As it lives in the swamps and hides in the daytime, only coming forth at night, the natives have almost given up the effort to obtain it, and it is only for

their chiefs that they ever pursue them. The chiefs alone are permitted to wear cloaks made of its skin, and the owner of a Kiwi cloak is a very proud man.

421. Have reptiles ears?

Reptiles have flat and naked ears without auricles. The principal tribes are Tortoises, Lizards, and Frogs.

422. What is the Bearded Tortoise?

The Chelys matamata (*chelydidæ*), whose flesh is highly prized, is both the type and the grotesque member of this family.

423. What animal is supposed to be the "cony" of Scripture?

It belongs to the Pachydermata. Its scientific name is *Hyrax Syriacus*, and it is like the Alpine marmot.

424. Does the porcupine throw his quills?

No. The opinion that they do, has been fully refuted by many accurate naturalists, who have taken pains to inquire into the matter.

425. What fish has four beards hanging from the mouth?

The Barbel, a member of the *cyprinidæ* genus of fish, has four beards or barbules hanging from the mouth, probably to aid it in grubbing with its nose for aquatic larvæ in the soft banks of streams and rivers.

426. In what country are "singing mice" to be obtained?

Singing Mice are common mice supposed to have a disease of the throat that makes them utter a noise like a canary. They are not a distinct species.

427. What birds are used by the Chinese for fishing?

Cormorants (*graculidæ*), which are abundant in all parts of the world. They are tamed and used for fishing, by these "barbarians," by placing a ring at the base of the neck to prevent the bird from swallowing the game.

428. What is the Puffing Pig?

This name is applied to the common porpoise which frequently comes to the surface of the water to breathe, where it tumbles and frisks about, presenting a grotesque appearance.

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429. What bird has a gape with bristles?

The Whippoorwill. Though bearing a strong resemblance to the Night Hawk, it has this peculiar mark of distinction, as the latter does not have bristles in its gape.

430. Is there really a flying squirrel?

They are provided with a lateral membrane attached to the body and the wrists, which they spread when they wish to make a leap. This they can do to the distance of ten or twelve yards. Strictly speaking, they do not fly.

431. What are the "stone-suckers"?

The *Petromyzon Americanus* or Lamprey eel. Its mouth is simply a circular sucking-cup, armed with numerous teeth. The tongue, working like a piston, produces a vacuum by which the animal adheres to any object. Assisted by the

current, it thus drags away quite large stones from the spot it chooses for depositing its spawn.

432. Are there *red* canary birds?

None, excepting perhaps hybrids. They do not exist naturally.

433. What occasions the bad odor of burnt gunpowder?

Potassium sulphide, resulting from the combustion of the powder.

434. Who were Abélard and Héloïse?

Two lovers whose passion for each other commenced at Paris, 1118, when Héloïse (a canon's daughter) was under seventeen years of age. Abélard built the convent of the Paraclete, in which he taught what was condemned as heresy, 1122 and 1140, and made Héloïse abbess. After suffering an ignominious injury at the hands of her uncle, he became a monk of the Abbey of St. Denis, and died of grief, in 1142, at St. Marcel. Héloïse begged his body, buried it in the Paraclete, and was interred beside him in 1163. The remains of both were carried to the Museum of French Monuments in 1800; and the Museum having been subsequently broken up, they were finally removed to the cemetery of Père la Chaise in 1817. Their works and letters were published in one volume, in 1816. Pope's imitations of the latter are well known.

435. How did St. Anthony live?

It is said that he lived to the age of 105, on twelve ounces of bread and water daily. James, the Hermit, lived to the

age of 104, while St. Epiphanius existed on the same frugal diet to the age of 115.

436. What is Aceldama?

A field said to have been the one bought with the thirty pieces of silver given to Judas Iscariot for betraying Christ, which is still shown to travellers. It is covered with an arched roof, and retains the name Aceldama, that is, "the field of blood," to this day. — Matt. xxvii. 8; Acts, i. 19. The name was also given to an estate purchased by Judge Jeffreys, after the "Bloody Assizes," in 1685.

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437. Why was Adrian's Wall built?

To prevent the irruptions of the Scots and Picts into the northern counties of England, then under the Roman government. The wall extended from the Tyne to Solway Firth, was eighty miles long, twelve feet high, and eight feet in thickness. Built in 121, it was named after its second founder, the Emperor Adrian; it was repaired by Severus in the year 208.

438. What are the three nations of Amazons?

The Asiatic, Scythian, and African. They are said to have been the descendants of Scythians inhabiting Cappadocia, where their husbands, having made incursions, were all slain, being surprised in ambuscades by their enemies. Their widows having resolved to form a female State, established themselves and decreed that matrimony was a shameful servitude. Herodotus states they were conquered by Theseus about 1231 B.C. As they were constantly employed in wars, they had their right breasts burned off (whence their name from the Greek, *a*, no, and *mazos*, breast), that they might throw the javelin with more

force. Others derive their name from *maza*, the moon, which orb they are supposed to have worshiped. About 330 B.C., their queen, Thalestris, visited Alexander the Great, while he was pursuing his conquests in Asia; three hundred females were in her train.

439. Which of the Vestals broke their vows?

Minutia, who was burned alive, 337 B.C.; Sextalia, 274 B.C., and Cornelia Maximiliana, A.D. 92. The vestals were priestesses of Vesta, who took care of the perpetual fire consecrated to her worship. The mother of Romulus was a vestal. Numa, in 710 B.C., appointed four, and Tarquin added two. After the expulsion of the Tarquins, the high-priest was intrusted with the care of them.

440. What is the Iron Crown?

It is made of gold, having inside a ring of iron, said to have been forged from the nails of Christ's cross, and was made by order of Theudelinde for her husband, Agilulf, king of the Longobards, 591. She gave it to the church at Monza. Charlemagne was crowned with this crown, and after him all the emperors who were kings of Lombardy. Napoleon I. at Milan, on May 26, 1805, put it on his head, saying, "*Dieu me l'a donnée; gare à qui y touchera*" ("God has given it to me; woe to him who shall touch it"). He founded the order of the Iron Crown, which still exists. The crown was removed from Monza to Mantua, by the Austrians, on April 23, 1859.

441. When was the republic of Andorra established?

It was made independent by Charlemagne about the year 778, certain rights being reserved to the Bishop of Urgel. The feudal sovereignty, which long appertained to the

Counts of Foix, reverted to the French king, Henry IV., in 1589, but was given up in 1790. On March 27, 1806, an imperial decree restored the old relations between Andorra and France. The republic is now governed by a council elected for life; but the magistrates are appointed alternately by the French government and the Spanish Bishop of Urgel. This small republic in the Pyrenees, bearing the title of "The Valleys and Sovereignties of Andorra," has a population of about twenty thousand.

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442. What are noted anagrams?

Anagrams are formed by the transposition of the letters of a name or sentence; as *army* from *Mary*, etc. To the question put by Pilate to the Saviour: "*Quid est veritas?*" ("What is truth?") is the answer in the remarkable anagram, "*Est vir qui adest*" ("The man who is here"). From "*Horatio Nelson*" is derived "*Honor est a Nilo*" ("There is Honor from the Nile"). These transpositions are said to have been made by ancient Jews, Greeks, and other nations; the French introduced the art, as now practised, about the year 1560, in the reign of Charles IX.

443. Where is it claimed that the Ark rested?

Mount Ararat is venerated by the Armenians from a belief of its being the place on which Noah's ark rested after the universal deluge, 2348 B.C. But Apamea, in Phrygia, claims to be the spot; and medals have been struck there with a chest on the waters, and the letters N O E, and two doves; this place is three hundred miles west of Ararat. The ark was three hundred cubits in length, fifty in breadth, and thirty in height; but most interpreters suppose this cubit to be about a foot and a half and not the geometrical one of six.

444. What noted conquerer died on the eve of his marriage?

Attila; who was distinguished for his conquests and crimes, having ravaged the Eastern Empire from 445 to 450, when he made peace with Theodosius. He invaded the Western Empire, 450, and was defeated by Ætius at Châlons, 451; retiring into Pannonia, he died, through the bursting of a blood-vessel, on the night of his nuptials with a beautiful virgin named Ildico, in the year 453.

445. What is the Victoria Cross?

It is a Maltese cross made of Russian cannon from Sebastopol, a representative of the royal order of merit instituted to reward the gallantry of persons of all ranks in the army and navy, on February 5, 1856.

446. What was Blood's conspiracy?

On December 4, 1670, Blood, a discarded officer of Oliver Cromwell's household, with his confederates, seized the Duke of Ormond in his coach, and had taken him to Tyburn, intending to hang him, when his friends rescued him. Blood, afterward, in the disguise of a clergyman, attempted to steal the regal crown from the jewel-office in the Tower, May 9, 1671. For this and other offences, he was not only pardoned, but had a pension of £500 per annum granted to him by Charles II. in 1671. He died in 1680, while confined in prison for a libel on the Duke of Buckingham.

447. Who were the Walloons?

A people who fled to England from the persecution of the cruel Duke of Alva, the governor of the Low Counties for Philip II. of Spain, in 1566, where a church was given to

them by Queen Elizabeth. The first permanent settlements in New York were made by Walloons (the descendants of French Protestants who had fled to Holland). Thirty-five families arrived in 1623. Eight families went up the Hudson, and settled at Albany; the remainder crossed the East River, and settled upon lands now covered by the eastern portion of Brooklyn, around the navy-yard. There was born Sarah Rapelye, the first white child born within the limits of New York State.

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448. What was an "angel"?

An ancient gold coin, weighing four pennyweights, and valued at 6*s.* 8*d.* in the reign of Henry VI., and at 10*s.* in the reign of Elizabeth, 1562. The *angelot*, a gold coin, value half an angel, was struck at Paris when held by the English in 1431.

449. What is *yttrium?*

A rare metal. The earth yttria was discovered by Professor Gadolin in a mineral at Ytterby, in Sweden, 1794. The metal, which was first obtained by Wöhler in 1828, is of a dark gray color and very brittle.

450. What was the Ernulphus curse?

It was a form of excommunication of the church of Rome written by Ernulphus, the bishop of Rochester, who was a friend of Anselm of Canterbury, and lived in the twelfth century. The TEXTUS DE ECCLESIA ROFFENSI, PER ERNULFUM EPISCOPUM EXCOMMUNICATIO will be found in Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*. Oliver, a sailor and patriot, with a merited reputation for extempore rhyming, while on a visit to his cousin, Benedict Arnold, after the war, was requested by the latter to amuse a party of English officers with

some extemporaneous effusion, whereupon he stood up and repeated the following terrible invective (an Ernulphus curse) that would have fully satisfied even Dr. Slop; and this is known as "Oliver's Impromptu": —

Born for a curse to virtue and mankind,
Earth's broadest realm ne'er knew so black a mind;
Night's sable veil your crimes can never hide:
Each one so great, 'twould glut historic tide;
Defunct, your cursed memory will live
In all the glare that infamy can give;
Curses of ages will attend your name;
Traitors alone will glory in your shame;

Almighty vengeance sternly waits to roll
Rivers of sulphur on your treach'rous soul;
Nature looks shudd'ring back with conscious dread
On such a tarnished blot as she has made.
Let hell receive you riveted in chains,
Doomed to the hottest focus of its flames.

451. What fortune did Napoleon leave?

Six million francs; which he left to his friends General Drouet, General Desnouettes, General Girard's children, and many others. To the Count de Montholon, he willed 2,000,000 francs; to the Comte Bertrand, 500,000, and to Marchaud, his first *valet-de-chambre*, the munificent sum of 400,000 francs. Napoleon died on May 5, 1821, eleven days after signing his will. His last testament, for a long time in the possession of England, has been given up to the authorities in Paris, and is deposited among the archives of that capital.

452. When was the phrase "Over the left" first used?

The earliest trace of the use and peculiar significance of this phrase may be found in the *Records* of the Hartford

County courts, in the (then) Colony of Connecticut, as follows:—

AT A COUNTY COURT AT HARTFORD,
September 4, 1705.

Whereas, James Steel did commence an action against Bevell Waters (both of Hartford), in this Court, upon hearing and tryall whereof the Court gave judgment against the said Waters (as in justice they think they ought); upon the declaring the said judgment, the said Waters did review to the Court in March next; that, being granted and entered, the said Waters, as he departed from the table, he said: "*God bless you over the left shoulder.*"

The Court order a record to be made thereof forthwith.

(A true copie: Test)

CALEB STANLEY, *Clerk.*

At the next court, Waters was tried for contempt, for saying the words recited, "so cursing the Court," and on verdict fined £5. He asked a review of the Court following, which was granted; and pending trial, the Court asked counsel of the Reverend Messrs. Woodbridge and Buckingham, the ministers of the Hartford churches, as to the "common acceptation" of the offensive phrase. Their reply constitutes a part of the *Record*, and is as follows:—

We are of opinion that those words, said on the other side to be spoken by Bevell Waters, include (1) prophaneness, by using the name of God, that is holy, with such ill words whereto it was joyned; (2) that they carry great contempt in them, arising to the degree of an imprecation or curse, the words of a curse being the most contemptible that can ordinarily be used.

T. WOODBRIDGE.
T. BUCKINGHAM.

March 7, 1705–6.

The former judgment was affirmed on review.

453. When were post-paid envelopes first used?

M. Piron tells us that the idea of a post-paid envelope originated early in the reign of Louis XIV., with M. de Valfyer, who, in 1653, established (with royal approbation) a private penny-post, placing boxes at the corners of the

streets for the reception of letters wrapped up in envelopes, which were to be bought at offices established for that purpose. M. de Valfyer also had certain *forms of billets*, or notes, applicable to the ordinary business among the inhabitants of great towns, with blanks, which were to be filled up by the pen with such special matter as might complete the writer's object. One of these *billets* has been preserved to our times by a pleasant misapplication of it. Pélisson (Madame de Sévigné's friend, and the object of the *bon mot* that "He abused the privilege which men have of being ugly") was amused at this kind of skeleton correspondence, and under the affected name of *Pisandre* (according to the pedantic fashion of the day), he filled and addressed one of those forms to the celebrated Mademoiselle de Scuderie, in her *pseudonyme* of *Sappho*. This strange *billet-doux* has happened, from the celebrity of the parties, to be preserved, and it is still extant, — one of the oldest, it is presumed, of penny-post letters, and a curious example of a prepaying envelope, — a fresh proof of the adage that "there is nothing new under the sun."

454. When were clocks invented?

The invention of clocks is by some ascribed to Pacificus, archdeacon of Verona, in the ninth century; and by others to Boethius, in the early part of the sixth. The Saracens are supposed to have had clocks which were moved by weights, as early as the eleventh century; and, as the term is applied by Dante to a machine which struck the hours, clocks must have been known in Italy about the end of the thirteenth century, or beginning of the fourteenth. The most ancient clock of which we have any certain account was erected in a tower of the palace of Charles V., king of France, in 1364, by Henry de Wyck, or De Vick, a German

artist. A clock was erected at Strasbourg in 1370, at Courtray about the same period, and at Speyer in 1395. Watches made as early as 1700 were so delicately constructed by hand, and so small, as to easily fit on the top of a lead-pencil.

Among the quaint old treasures of strong and stately Bolton Castle, there was "a very fair clock, with the motion of the sun and moon, and other *conclusions*." What these last may be, is not stated. In this grand old French mansion, "painfully secluded and lonely," Mary Stuart was, for a time, "a queenly prisoner-guest"; and "it is suggestively considered that many of the long and weary hours of her exile were counted out" upon the dial of this "odd, yet comely timepiece." Account is given "of so brave a gift," sent early in the thirteenth century to Frederick II. by the Sultan of Egypt; this wonderful "horologium resembled a celestial globe, in which sun, moon, and planets moved; being impelled by weights and wheels, they pointed out the hour, day and night." A hundred years later was a timepiece, ranking, for cunning workmanship, above all others then known in Europe, "showing various astronomical phenomena."

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455. What was the stratagem of Columbus?

During the fourth voyage of Columbus, while prosecuting his discoveries among the West India Islands and along the coast of the continent, his vessels, from continual subjection to tempestuous weather, and being (to use his own expression) "bored by the worms as full of holes as a honeycomb," were reduced to mere wrecks, unable any longer to keep the sea, and were finally stranded on the shore of Jamaica. Being beyond the possibility of repair, they were fitted up for the temporary use of Columbus, who

was in feeble health, and of such of his crew as were disabled by sickness, those who were well, being sent abroad for assistance and supplies. Their immediate wants were amply provided for, Diego Mendez having made arrangements with the natives for a daily exchange of knives, combs, beads, fish-hooks, etc., for cassava-bread, fish, and other provisions. In the course of a short time, however, provisions on the island became scarce, and the supplies began gradually to fall off. The arrangements for the daily delivery of certain quantities were irregularly attended to, and finally ceased entirely. The Indians no longer thronged to the harbor with provisions, and often refused them when application was made. The Spaniards were obliged to forage about the neighborhood for their daily food, but found more and more difficulty in procuring it; and now, in addition to their other causes of despondency, they began to entertain horrible apprehensions of famine.

The Admiral heard the melancholy forebodings of his men, and beheld the growing evil, but was at a loss for a remedy. To resort to force was an alternative full of danger, and of but temporary efficacy. It would require all those who were well enough to bear arms to sally forth, while he and the rest of the infirm would be left defenceless on board the wreck, exposed to the vengeance of the natives.

In the meantime, the scarcity daily increased. The Indians perceived the wants of the white men, and had learned from them the art of making bargains. They asked ten times the former quantity of European articles for a given amount of provisions, and brought their supplies in scanty quantities, to enhance the eagerness of the Spaniards.

At length, even this relief ceased, and there was an absolute distress for want of food, the natives withholding

all provisions, in hopes either of starving the Admiral and his people, or of driving them from the island. In this extremity, a fortunate idea suddenly presented itself to Columbus. From his knowledge of astronomy, he ascertained that within three days there would be a total eclipse of the moon, in the early part of the night. He sent, therefore, an Indian of the island of Hispaniola (Hayti), who served as his interpreter, to summon the principal *caciqu·s* to a grand conference, appointing for it the day of the eclipse. When all were assembled, he told them, by his interpreter, that he and his followers were worshipers of a Deity who lived in the skies: that this Deity favored such as did well, and punished all transgressors; that, as they must have all noticed, he had protected Diego Mendez and his companions in their voyage, they having gone in obedience to the orders of their commander, but that, on the other hand, he had visited Francisco de Porras and his companions with all kinds of crosses and difficulties, in consequence of their rebellion; that this great Deity was incensed against the Indians who had refused or neglected to furnish his faithful worshipers with provisions, and intended to chastise them with pestilence and famine. Lest they should disbelieve this warning, a signal would be given that very night, in the heavens. They would behold the moon change its color, and gradually lose its light, — a token of the fearful punishment which awaited them.

Many of the Indians were alarmed at the solemnity of the prediction; others treated it with scoffing; all, however, awaited with solicitude the coming of the night, and none with more than Columbus himself, who was distracted with anxiety lest the weather should prove cloudy or rainy. Imagine his gratitude when the evening sky appeared undimmed by a cloud! At the time prophesied, the natives beheld a dark shadow stealing over the moon, and they

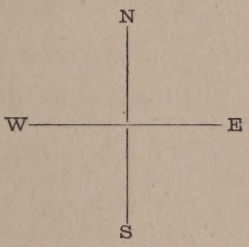
began to tremble. Their fears increased with the progress of the eclipse; and when they saw mysterious darkness covering the whole face of nature, there were no bounds to their terror. Seizing upon whatever provisions they could procure, they hurried to the ships, uttering cries and lamentations. They threw themselves at the feet of the great discoverer, implored him to intercede with his God to avert the threatened calamities, and assured him that thenceforth they would bring him whatever was required. Columbus told them that he would retire and commune with his Deity. Shutting himself up in his cabin he remained there during the increase of the eclipse, the forests and shores all the while resounding with the howlings and supplications of the savages. When the eclipse was about to diminish, he came forth and informed the natives that he had interceded for them with his God, who, on condition of their fulfilling their promises, had deigned to pardon them, in sign of which he would withdraw the darkness from the moon.

When the Indians saw that planet restored presently to its brightness and rolling in all its beauty through the firmament, they overwhelmed the Admiral with thanks for his intercession, and repaired to their homes, joyful at having escaped such great disasters. They now regarded Columbus with awe and reverence, as a man in peculiar favor and confidence of the Deity, since he knew upon earth what was passing in the heavens. They hastened to propitiate him with gifts, supplies again arrived daily at the harbor, and from that time forward there was no want of provisions.

456. What is the origin of the word "news"?

The word news is commonly supposed to be derived from the adjective *new*. It is asserted, however, that its origin is traceable to a custom, in former times, of placing on the

newspapers of the day, the initial letters of the cardinal points of the compass, thus: —



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These letters were intended to indicate that the paper contained intelligence from the four quarters of the globe, but they finally came to assume the form of the word *news*, from which the term newspaper is derived.

457. Who became king by first seeing the sun rise?

The Tyrians having been much weakened by long wars with the Persians, their slaves rose in a body, slew their masters and their children, took possession of their property, and married their wives. The slaves, having thus obtained everything, consulted about the choice of a king, and agreed that he who should first discern the sun rise should be king. One of them being more merciful than the rest, had spared, in the general massacre, his master Straton and his son, whom he hid in a cave; and to his old master he now resorted for advice as to this competition. Straton advised his slave that when others looked to the east he should look toward the west. Accordingly, when the rebel tribe had all assembled in the fields and every man's eye was fixed upon the east, Straton's slave, turning his back upon the rest, looked only westward. He was scoffed at by every

one for his absurdity, but immediately he espied the sunbeams upon the high towers and chimneys in the city, and, announcing the discovery, claimed the crown as his reward.

458. Why do alligators swallow stones?

The Indians on the banks of the Oronoko (Orinoco) assert that previously to an alligator going in search of prey it always swallows a large stone, that it may acquire additional weight to aid it in diving, and dragging its victims under water. A traveller being somewhat incredulous on this point, Bolivar, to convince him, shot several with his rifle, and in all of them were found stones varying in weight according to the size of the animal. The largest killed was about seventeen feet in length, and had within him a stone weighing about sixty or seventy pounds.

459. What was the highest price ever paid for a cat?

Montenegro presented to the elder Almagro the first cat which was brought to South America, and was rewarded for it with 600 *pesos*. The first couple of cats which were carried to Cuyaba sold for a pound of gold. There was a plague of rats in the settlement, and they were purchased as a speculation, which proved an excellent one. Their first kittens produced thirty *oitavas* each; the next generation were worth twenty; and the price gradually fell as the inhabitants were stocked with these beautiful and useful creatures.

> "Could every hailstone to a pearl be turned
> Pearls in the mart like oyster-shells were spurned!"

460. Who first ascertained the ratio of the diameter to the circumference?

The proportion of the diameter of a circle to its circumference has never yet been exactly ascertained. Nor can a square or any other right-lined figure be found that shall be equal to a given circle. This is the celebrated problem called the "squaring of the circle," which has exercised the abilities of the greatest mathematicians for ages, and has been the occasion of so many disputes. Several persons of considerable eminence have, at different times, pretended that they had discovered the exact quadrature; but their errors have readily been detected; and it is now generally regarded as a thing impossible to be done.

But though the relation between the diameter and circumference can not be accurately expressed in known numbers, it may yet be approximated to any assigned degree of exactness. And in this manner was the problem solved, at Syracuse, 287 B.C., by the great Archimedes, who discovered the proportion to be nearly as 7 to 22. The process by which he effected this may be seen in his book *De Dimensione Circuli*. The same proportion was also discovered by Philo Gadarensis and Apollonius Pergeus at a still earlier period, as we are informed by Eutocius.

The proportion of Vieta and Metius is that of 113 to 355, which is a little more exact than the former. It was derived from the pretended quadrature of a M. Van Eick, which first gave rise to the discovery.

But the first who ascertained this ratio to any great degree of exactness was Van Ceulen, a Dutchman, in his book, *De Circulo et Adscriptis*. He found that if the diameter of a circle was 1, the circumference would be 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288 4 nearly, which is exactly true to 36 places of decimals; and he was so pleased with his discovery that he desired that the numbers might be engraved upon his tombstone, which was done, as may be seen at St. Peter's Church at Leyden. He appears, how-

ever, to have effected his calculation by dint of labor, rather than fertility of invention, for he used only the tedious mode of calculation long before adopted by Archimedes. Snellius, of the same country, adopted a much shorter process, by which he fully proved the accuracy of Van Ceulen's calculation.

But since the invention of fluxions, and the summation of infinite series, several methods have been discovered for doing the same thing with much more ease and expedition. Euler and other eminent mathematicians have by these means given a quadrature of the circle which is true to more than 100 places — later mathematicians have carried the decimal to 154 places — a proposition so extremely near the truth that unless the ratio could be completely obtained, we need not wish for a greater degree of accuracy.

461. What is the most curious book in the world?

The most singular bibliographic curiosity is that which belonged to the family of the Prince de Ligne, and is now in France. It is entitled *Liber Passionis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi, cum Characteribus Nulla Materia Compositis* ("The book of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, in characters without materials of composition"). This book is neither written nor printed! The whole letters of the text are cut out of each folio upon the finest vellum; and being interleaved with blue paper, it is read as easily as the best print. The labor and patience bestowed in its completion must have been excessive, especially when the precision and minuteness of the letters are considered. The general execution, in every respect, is indeed admirable; and the vellum is of the most delicate and costly kind. Rodolphus II. of Germany offered for it, in 1640, 11,000 ducats, which was probably equal to 60,000 at this day. The most remarkable circumstance connected with this

literary treasure is, that it bears the royal arms of England, but it can not be traced to have ever been in that country. — In the Library of Upsal, in Sweden, there is preserved a translation of the Four Gospels, printed with metal types upon violet-colored vellum. The letters are silver, and hence it has received the name of *Codex Argenteus*. The initial letters are in gold. It is supposed that the whole was printed in the same manner as bookbinders letter the titles of books on the back. It was a very near approach to the discovery of the art of printing; but it is not known how old it is. — A curious collection of books is contained in the library of Warstenstein, near Cassel, in Germany. These books appear at first sight to be logs of wood, but each volume is really a complete history of the tree it represents. The back shows the bark, in which a small place is cut to write the scientific and the common name as a title. One side shows the tree trunk in its natural state, and the other is polished and varnished. Inside are shown the leaves, fruit, fibre, and insect parasites, to which is added a full description of the tree and its products.

462. Of what were the breast-works made at the battle of New Orleans?

It seems incredible, and it certainly is singular, that so many errors in our history should continue to prevail in utter defiance of what is known to be fact. Historians, for instance, persist in writing, and people consequently persist in believing, that the breast-works of General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans (January 8, 1815) were made of cotton bales covered with earth, whilst intelligent survivors strenuously deny that there was a pound of that combustible material on the ground. General W. H. Palfrey, of the Crescent City, who served in Major Planche's battalion,

which was stationed from December 23, 1814, to January 15, 1815, in the center of General Jackson's line, makes the following statement (dated April 5, 1859), which is confirmed by Major Chotard, Jackson's Assistant Adjutant-General: —

"About twenty or twenty-five bales of cotton were used in forming the embrasures of five or six howitzers. There were four batteries of one piece of artillery, or howitzer, and four of two pieces, established at different points of the lines. Four bales were used at some of the batteries and six at others. None were used in any other portions of the works, which consisted of breast-works formed of earth thrown up from the inside, branches of trees, and rubbish. Each company threw up its own breast-work; and the more it was affected by the enemy's artillery and Congreve rockets, the more industriously the soldiers toiled to strengthen it."

463. The skull of what noted writer is now to be seen in an English museum?

William Howitt states that, by one of those acts which neither science nor curiosity can excuse, the skull of Alexander Pope is now in the private collection of a phrenologist. The manner in which it was obtained is said to have been thus: On some occasion of alteration in the church at Twickenham, England, or burial of some one in the same spot, the coffin of Pope was disinterred, and opened to see the state of the remains. By a bribe to the sexton of the time, possession of the skull was obtained for the night, and another skull was returned in place of it. Fifty pounds were paid for the successful management of this transaction. Whether this account is correct or not, the fact is that the skull of Pope figures in a private museum.

464. Where is wine kept that is worth two millions of dollars a bottle?

Wine at two millions of dollars a bottle is a drink that in expense would rival the luxurious taste of barbaric splendor, when priceless pearls were thrown into the wine-cup to give a rich flavor to its contents; yet that there is such a costly beverage is a fixed fact. In the Rose apartment (so called from a bronze *bas-relief*) of the ancient cellar under the Hôtel de Ville, in the city of Bremen, is the famous "Rosenwein," deposited there nearly two centuries and a half ago. There were twelve large cases, each bearing the name of one of the apostles; and the wine of Judas, despite the reprobation attached to his name, is to this day more highly esteemed than the others. One case of wine, containing five *oxhoft* of 204 bottles, cost 500 rix-dollars in 1624. Including the expenses of keeping up the cellar, and of the contributions, interests of the amounts, and interests upon interests, an oxhoft costs at the present time 555,657,640 rix-dollars, and consequently a bottle is worth 2,723,812 rix-dollars; a glass, or the eighth part of a bottle, is worth 340,476 rix-dollars, or $272,380; or at the rate of 340 rix-dollars, or $272, per drop. A burgomaster of Bremen is privileged to have one bottle whenever he entertains a distinguished guest who enjoys a German or European reputation. The fact illustrates the operation of interest, if it does not show the cost of luxury.

465. Where were the Pillars of Hercules?

They were named Calpë and Abyla, and were situated at Gibraltar and Céuta. They were torn asunder by Hercules that he might get to Gadês (*Cadiz*). Upon them was inscribed the motto *Ne plus ultra*—"There is nothing beyond."

466. What is the origin of the phrase, "Kicking the bucket"?

The tradition among the slangy fraternity as to the origin of this phrase, is that "One Bolsover, having hung himself to a beam while standing on the bottom of a pail or bucket, kicked the vessel away in order to pry into futurity, and it was all UP with him from that moment, — Finis"!

467. What was the reply of Leonidas to Xerxes?

The Persian monarch sent messengers to the Spartan king at Thermopylæ, saying: "Go, and tell those madmen to deliver up their arms." Leonidas replied: "Go, and tell Xerxes to come and take them."

468. Who said *Après moi le deluge?*

"After me the deluge" ("When I am dead the deluge may come for aught I care"). Generally ascribed to Prince Metternich, but he borrowed it from Madame Pompadour, who laughed off all the remonstrances of ministers at her extravagance by this famous saying.

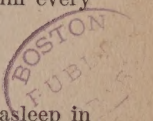
469. What is the story of Dorigen?

She was a lady of high family who married Arviragus out of pity for his love and meekness. Greatly beloved by Aurelius, to whom she had long been known, the latter tried during the absence of the husband to win her heart; but Dorigen made answer that she would never listen to him till the rocks that beset the coast of Britain are removed "and there n'is no stone yseen." By the aid of a magician of Orleans, Aurelius caused all the rocks to disappear, and claimed his reward. Dorigen was very sad, but her husband insisted that she should keep her word, and

she went to meet Aurelius, who, upon seeing her sorrow and hearing what Arviragus had counselled, declared he would rather die than injure so true a wife and noble a gentleman. She then returned to her husband happy and untainted. — Read Chaucer's *Franklines Tale*.

470. What is Endymion?

In Greek mythology, he is the sunset with whom the moon is in love. Endymion was condemned to endless sleep and everlasting youth, and Silene kisses him every night on the Latmian hills.



471. Who was the "sleeping philosopher"?

Epimenides, a philosopher of Crete, who fell asleep in a cave while a boy, and did not wake again for fifty-seven years, when he found himself endowed with miraculous wisdom.

472. What was the origin of a "bumper"?

When the Roman Catholic religion was in the ascendancy in England, the health of the Pope was usually drunk in a full glass immediately after dinner — *au bon père:* (to the good father), hence the word "Bumper."

473. Who killed one fourth of all the people on the earth?

CAIN.

474. Why was Washington called *The American Fabius?*

Because he pursued the same military policy as did Fabius, the Roman general. He wearied out the English

troops by harassing them, without coming to a pitched battle. The same policy was pursued in France by Duguesclin, who, thereby, acting upon the advice of Charles V., retrieved all the conquests of Edward and the Black Prince.

475. What was the Web of Penelope?

A work "never ending, still beginning," never done, but ever in hand. Penelope, according to Homer, was pestered by suitors while her husband, Ulysses, was absent at the siege of Troy. To relieve herself of their importunities, she promised to make her choice of one as soon as she had finished weaving a shroud for her father-in-law. Every night she unraveled what she had done in the day, and so deferred making any choice till Ulysses returned, when the suitors were sent away "in haste."

476. What is meant by the expression, "the Nestor of politics"?

Nestor was the King of Pylos, in Greece; the oldest and most experienced of the chieftains who went to the siege of Troy. On his return home his kingdom was abolished and all his subjects reduced to slavery. So the expression refers to a venerable leader or authority in any profession, trade, or business. Frequently, it simply means the oldest one engaged in any particular line of life's duty.

477. What is the meaning of the phrase, "a Roland for an Oliver"?

A blow for a blow, tit for tat. These two were paladins of Charlemagne, and their exploits are so similar that it is very difficult to keep them distinct. What one did the

other did. Finally they met in single combat, and fought for five consecutive days on an island in the Rhine without either gaining the least advantage. One account states that Roland died of the wounds he received at Roncesvalles, and another, that escaping the general slaughter he perished of hunger and thirst in seeking to cross the Pyrenees.

478. What are the Golden Verses?

Those that always go under the name of Pythagoras and seem quite in accordance with his excellent precepts, though they are attributed by some to Epicarmos, and by others to Empedocles. They are as follows:—

"Ne'er suffer sleep thine eyes to close
Before thy mind hath run
O'er every act, and thought, and word,
From dawn to set of sun;
For wrong take shame, but grateful feel
If just thy course hath been;
Such effort day by day renewed
Will ward thy soul from sin."

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They are so called because they are as "good as gold."

479. What is the meaning of Gibraltar?

It is a contraction of *Gebel al Tarik* (Geb' al' Tar), "Mountain of Tarik." This Tarik was an Arabian general, who, under the orders of Mousa, having landed at Calpë, in 710, utterly defeated Roderick, the Gothic King of Spain.

480. When did the cackling of geese save Rome?

According to the tradition B.C. 390, when the Gauls invaded Rome. A detachment in single file had clambered up the hill so silently that the foremost man reached the top without being challenged; but while he was striding over the rampart, some sacred geese, disturbed by the noise,

began to cackle and awoke the garrison. Marcus Manlius rushed to the wall and hurled the fellow over the precipice. In commemoration of this event, the Romans carried a golden goose in procession to the capitol every year.

481. Who was John O'Groat?

He was a Dutchman who settled in the most northerly point of Scotland, in the reign of James IV., and immortalized himself by the way he settled a dispute among his nine sons respecting precedency. He had nine doors to his mansion, one for each son, so that none could go out or come in before another. The distance from Land's End to John O'Groat's is nine hundred and ninety-four miles. His house is said to be a public inn at present.

482. Who is the author of the oft-quoted saying, "What will Mrs. Grundy say"?

The phrase is from Thomas Morton's (1764–1838) *Speed the Plough*. In the first scene Mrs. Ashfield shows herself very jealous of neighbor Grundy, and Farmer Ashfield says to her: "Be quiet, woolye? Aleways ding, dinging Dame Grundy into my ears. What will Mrs. Grundy zay? What will Mrs. Grundy think?"

483. Who was the *Ungrateful Guest?*

This was the brand fixed by Philip of Macedon on a Macedonian soldier, who had been kindly entertained by a villager, and, when asked by the king what he could give him, requested the farm and cottage of his entertainer.

484. What were the "Hanging gardens of Babylon"?

One of the seven wonders of the world, consisting of four acres of garden raised on a base supported by pillars,

and towering in terraces one above another, three hundred feet in height. This mound, which at a distance looked like a vast pyramid covered with trees, was constructed by Nebuchadnezzar to gratify his wife Amytis, who felt weary of the flat plains of Babylon, and longed for something to remind her of her native Median hills.

485. What fatal presents were received by Harmonia?

She was the daughter of Mars and Venus, and on the day of her marriage with King Cadmus she received a necklace which proved fatal to all who possessed it; and from her father (to avenge the infidelity of her mother), the present of a robe dyed in all sorts of crimes, which infused wickedness and impiety into all her offspring. Both Harmonia and Cadmus, after having suffered many misfortunes, and seen their children a sorrow and shame to them, were changed into serpents.

486. How was the Order of the Garter established?

Various accounts are given, but the generally accepted tradition is that Edward III. gave a grand court ball, and one of the ladies present was the beautiful countess of Salisbury, whose garter of blue ribbon accidentally fell to the floor. The king, seeing a significant smile upon the faces of the guests, gallantly came to the rescue by picking up the ribbon, as he said: "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*" ("Evil be to him who evil thinks," or, "Shame to him who thinks shame of this accident"). Binding the ribbon round his own knee, he added: "I will bring it about that the proudest noble in the land shall think it an honor to wear this band." This accident determined him to abandon his plan of forming an order of the *Round Table*, and he instituted instead the "Order of the Garter."

487. How did Lord Kingsale acquire the right of wearing his hat in the royal presence?

When King John and Philippe II. of France agreed to settle a dispute respecting the duchy of Normandy by single combat, John de Courcy, earl of Ulster, was the English champion. As he rode into the field, the French champion put spurs to his horse and fled. The king asked the earl what reward should be given him, and he replied: "Titles and lands I want not, of these I have enough; but in remembrance of this day, I beg the boon for myself and successors to remain uncovered in the presence of your highness, and all future sovereigns of the realm."

488. Who was Acestes?

A Sicilian who, in a trial of skill, discharged his arrow with such force that it took fire. Longfellow wrote: —

"Like Acestes' shaft of old
The swift thought kindles as it flies."

489. Who was the "laughing philosopher"?

Democritus of Abdera, who viewed with supreme contempt the feeble powers of man. (460–357 B.C.) Heraclitus, a native of Ephesus, who lived 500 B.C., was called the "weeping philosopher" because he grieved at the follies of mankind.

490. How many Iliads are there?

Five. (1) The tale of the siege of Troy, an epic poem by Homer. (2) *The French Iliad* — "The Romance of the Rose," begun by Guillaume de Lorris in the latter half of the thirteenth century, and continued by Jean de Meung in the early part of the fourteenth. To the original poem, Meung added a sequel of eighteen thousand lines. (3) *The*

Scotch Iliad — "The Epigoniad," a tale of the seven Grecian heroes who laid siege to Thebes, with the view of placing Polynices on the throne which his brother unlawfully held from him, by William Wilkie (1721–1772). (4) *The German Iliad* — "The Nibelungenlied," put into its present form in 1210 by a wandering minstrel of Austria. It consists of twenty parts. (5) *The Portuguese Iliad* — "The Lusiad," by Camoens.

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491. Where is Inchcape Rock?

It is twelve miles from land in the German Sea. Full of danger for navigators, the Abbot of Aberbrothok therefore fixed a bell on a float, which gave notice to sailors of its whereabouts. Ralph the Rover, a pirate, cut the bell from the float and was wrecked on his return home on the same rock. Robert Southey (1774–1843) wrote a ballad on the subject.

492. Who was the *Infant Prodigy?*

Christian Henry Heinecken, of Lubeck (1721–1725), who, at the age of twelve months, knew the chief events of the Pentateuch; at thirteen months, the history of the Old Testament; at fourteen months the history of the New Testament; at two and a half years he could answer any ordinary question of history or geography; at three years he knew well both French and Latin.

493. Who was the Lady of the Haystack?

A young, beautiful, and graceful lady, evidently accustomed to good society, who made her appearance, in 1776, at Bourton, near Bristol, England. She lived for four years in a haystack, but was ultimately kept in an asylum by Mrs. Hannah More, and died suddenly in December, 1801. Mrs.

More called her Louisa; she was probably a Mademoiselle La Frülen, natural daughter of Francis Joseph I., emperor of Austria.

494. What "beauty" was stoned to death by jealous women?

Laïs, a courtezan, or Greek Hetaira, whose beauty exciting the jealousy of the Thessalonian women, was by them stoned to death. She was contemporary with Phryne, her rival, and sat to Apelles as a model. There were two of the name and the elder, who was the one "stoned to death," was the most beautiful woman of Corinth, and lived at the time of the Peloponnesian war.

495. What was "the tune of which the cow died"?

The meaning is "words instead of food," and the reference is to an old song which represents a man who had bought a cow, but having no food to give her, bade his cow "consider that it was not the season for grass."

"He took up his fiddle and he played her this tune:
Consider, good cow, consider,
This is n't the time for grass to grow;
Consider, good cow, consider."

496. What is the meaning of Texas?

It is the name given by Ponce De Leon to the Asimais Indians, and means "friends."

497. Who were the *eleven thousand virgins?*

The virgin train of St. Ursula, who, on their way to France were driven by adverse winds to Cologne, where they were martyred by the Huns. Visitors to that city are shown piles of skulls and human bones heaped in the wall,

faced with glass, which the verger asserts are the relics of these unfortunate females. Ursula was a British princess.

498. What predicted the bloody death of Cyrus the Great?

The speaking head of Orpheus is said to have predicted the fatal termination of the expedition of Cyrus into Scythia. The close of Cyrus's life (529 B.C.) is involved in obscurity, one account being that he was slain in battle with the Massagetæ, a Scythian tribe, whose infuriated queen, Tomyris, had his head thrown into a vat of boiling blood, his body being conveyed to Persia, and buried at Pasargadæ; and another, that he lived in retirement to "a good old age."

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499. What is the meaning of a "sardonic smile"?

A smile of contempt; as used by Homer. The *Herba Sardonica* (so called from Sardis, in Asia Minor) is so acrid that it produces a convulsive movement of the nerves of the face, resembling a painful grin. Byron says of the Corsair: "There was a laughing devil in his sneer."

500. What is the *pons asinorum?*

It is the Fifth Proposition, Book I. of Euclid—the first difficult theorem, which dunces rarely get over for the first time without stumbling.

501. Who is the author of the saying, "Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well"?

It is found in the *Letter* of the Earl of Chesterfield (1694–1773), written March 10, 1746.

502. Who called Shakespeare "the myriad-minded"?

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), in his *Biog. Lit.*, ch. xv., writes, "Our myriad-minded Shakespeare," a phrase which he acknowledges to have borrowed from a Greek monk, who applies it to a patriarch of Constantinople.

503. By whom was the familiar line "Hypocrisy is the homage vice pays to virtue" written?

François, duc de La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680). It is *Maxim 227*, to be found in the London edition (1871) of his works.

504. How is glycerine obtained?

It is obtained pure by saponifying olive oil or animal fat with oxide of lead, or litharge. Discovered by Scheele, about 1779, it was called by him the "sweet principle of fat," and was further studied by Chevreul, who termed it the "father of the fatty acids."

505. What was the origin of the name of Lake Itasca?

Certain explorers having found what they considered the source of the Mississippi, a discussion arose as to what they should call it; an old voyager said: "Let's make a new name by coining a word; some of you learned ones tell me what is the Latin for *true*?" "*Veritas*," was the answer. "Well, now, what is the Latin for *head*?" "*Caput*." "Now write the two words together." The linguist wrote on a piece of birch bark, "*Veritascaput*." "Now drop the first and last syllables, and you will have a good name for this lake." It was done, and the remainder was "*Itasca*," an abbreviation of the words meaning "The true head."

506. What is meant by Godwin's oath?

The caution "Take care you are not swearing Godwin's oath" to a person taking a voluntary and intemperate oath, or making violent protestations, had its rise in the following circumstances related by the monks: In 1053, Godwin, earl of Kent, was tried for the murder of Prince Alfred, brother of Edward the Confessor, and pardoned, but died at the king's table while protesting with oaths his innocence of the murder; supposed by the historians of those times to have been choked with a piece of bread, as a judgment from Heaven, having prayed that it might stick in his throat if he were guilty of the murder.

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507. Who is the author of the couplet: —

"Early to bed and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"?

Hazlitt states that this distich occurs in Clarke's *Paræmiologia*, 1639. He quotes in illustration: "And then it is no marvell though I know him not, for my houre is eight o'clocke, though it is an infallible rule. Sanat, sanctificat, et ditat surgere mane ["*Health and riches follow early rising*"]. (*A Health to the Gentle Professor of Servingmen*, 1598.) Franklin introduced this saying into the axioms of "Poor Richard."

508. What military order was instituted by Philip the Good?

The order of "*Toison d'or*," or "Golden fleece," to which thirty-one knights were admitted. The King of Spain afterward became grand master of the order as Duke of Burgundy. It is said to have been instituted on account of the immense profit the duke (Philip the Good) made on the sale of wool. The first solemnities were performed at

Burgos, at this duke's marriage with Isabel of Portugal; and on this occasion the knights wore a scarlet cloak lined with ermine, with the collar opened, and the duke's cipher, in the form of a B, to signify Burgundy, together with flints striking fire, with the motto, "*Ante ferit quam flamma micat*" ("He strikes before the spark gives light"). At the end of the collar hung a golden fleece, with this device, "*Pretium non vile laborum*" ("The not inglorious reward of toil"). The order afterward became common to all the princes of the house of Austria, as being descended from Mary, daughter of Charles the Bold, last duke of Burgundy. The order now belongs to both Austria and Spain, in accordance with a treaty made in 1725.

509. Among what people was cutting off the hair inflicted as a punishment?

The Gauls; for with them hair was much esteemed, and hence the appellation *Gallia comata*. The royal family of France held it as a particular mark and privilege of the kings and princes of the blood to wear long hair, artfully dressed and curled. "The clerical tonsure is of apostolic institution." — *Isidorus Hispalensis*. In the year 155, Pope Anicetus forbade the clergy to wear long hair. Long hair went "out of fashion" during the protectorate of Cromwell, and hence the term *Roundheads*. In 1795, a tax was laid upon persons using hair-powder (an article which came into use in 1590), at one time yielding a revenue of one hundred thousand dollars per annum.

510. How did the battle of *Hanging Rock* get its name?

From a large boulder on the edge of a high bank a few miles east of Rocky Mount, on the Catawba river, in South

Carolina, which gives the name to the place. General Sumter, on the sixth of August, 1780, attacked and defeated a large body of British and Tories after an engagement of four hours, in which he lost twelve men killed and forty-one wounded. This was the first battle in which Andrew Jackson, afterward President of the United States, was engaged, having been taken to the battle-field in some capacity as aid; and, according to one account, being captured by the British and held captive for some days.

511. What is the Achilles Puzzle?

An argument that Achilles could never catch a tortoise, because while the man was running the intervening distance, the tortoise would still get some distance ahead, and so on to infinity. This was invented by Zeno, the Electic, about 455 B.C.

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512. Where is Cape Hancock?

It is situated at the extreme southwestern point of Washington Territory forming the northern headland at the mouth of the Columbia river. It was formerly known as Cape Disappointment.

513. When did actresses first appear on the stage?

The first public appearance of women on the stage in England is said to have been encouraged by Charles II. in 1662; but the queen of James I. had previously performed in a theatre at court. Victor states that Mrs. Colman was the first actress on the stage and that she performed the part of "Ianthe" in Davenant's *Siege of Rhodes*, in 1656. Actresses appear to have been unknown to the ancients, men or eunuchs performing the female parts. The most celebrated actresses have been Mrs. Siddons, English, born

1755, died 1831; Fanny Kemble, English, born 1811; Mademoiselle Rachel (Eliza Rachel Felix), French Jewess, born 1820, died 1858; Madame Ristori, Italian, born 1821.

514. What country has never been conquered?

Scotland. There "Roman Eagles found unconquered foes."* The union between Scotland and England, as the "Kingdom of Great Britain," — though the crowns of these two countries were united by the accession of James I. (VI. of Scotland) March 24, 1603, — took place in 1707.

515. For what was Barataria Bay noted?

For being the "resort" of a band of privateersmen and pirates consisting of a thousand men, mostly French, under Lafitte, in 1814, as the English, by taking Guadaloupe in 1810 had deprived them of the use of that port. The captain of an English sloop-of-war, then at Pensacola, on September 2, 1814, offered to receive them into the English service if they would join in the attack on New Orleans. Lafitte, however, informing Governor Claiborne of Louisiana, Commodore Patterson, with a United States squadron, was sent to Barataria in October of that year and captured ten vessels with twenty guns, the pirates not offering any resistance. Lafitte and a part of them afterward served under General Jackson in the defence of New Orleans, and were, in return, left unmolested. This bay is situated about fifteen miles by six, west of the Mississippi.

* Thomas Campbell wrote:—

"Triumphant be the thistle still unfurl'd,
Dear Symbol wild! On Freedom's hills it grows,
Where Fingal stemm'd the tyrants of the world,
And Roman Eagles found unconquer'd foes."

Written at request of the Highland Society in London.

516. When was the Black Hawk War?

From the middle of May until the second of August, 1832, when, in a battle at the junction of the Bad Axe river with the Mississippi, four hundred regulars and five hundred volunteers under General Atkinson totally defeated the five hundred Indians under Black Hawk, captured that fiery Sac chief, drove the survivors beyond the Mississippi, and ended the war. Only twenty-two white people were killed and forty wounded during the summer, while the Indians lost two hundred and sixty-three warriors and forty women.

517. Who was Michael Servetus?

A Spanish physician who knew of the circulation of the blood through the lungs, in 1553. Cæsalpinus published an account of the general circulation, of which he had some confused ideas, afterward improved by experiments, in 1569. Paul of Venice, or Father Paolo (real name Peter Sarpi), discovered the valves which serve for the circulation; but the honor of the definite discovery of the circulation belongs to William Harvey, between 1619 and 1628.

518. Of what science was Aristotle the founder?

He is considered the founder of the science of botany, about 347 B.C. The *Historia Plantarum* of Theophrastus was written about 320 B.C. Authors on botany became numerous at the close of the fifteenth century, and were followed by Fuchsius, Bock, Bauhin, Cæsalpinus, and others, who wrote between 1535 and 1600. The system and arrangement of the great Linnæus was made known about 1750; and Jussieu's system, founded on Tournefort's, and called "the natural system," in 1758. At Linnæus's death

in 1778, the species of plants actually described amounted in number to eleven thousand eight hundred. The number of species now recorded is fully one hundred thousand.

519. What is the "water volcano"?

Mount De Agua (*Volcan de Agua*) in Guatemala, Central America, twenty-five miles southwest of the capital, New Guatemala. The traveller Stephen estimates its altitude at fourteen thousand four hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. Cultivated fields surround the base, and a belt of forest and verdure extends to the summit. Its name is derived from the fact that, occasionally, torrents of cold water flow out of its northern side.

520. What is the meaning of Patagonia?

Large-footed. An appropriate appellation in reference to the pedal extremities of its natives. It is well to know, however, that Patagonia, as a distinct country, has disappeared from the map of South America, having been absorbed by the Argentine Republic.

521. What is a "Dutch Tear"?

The term sometimes applied to Prince Rupert's Drops, described in the answer to query No. 215.

522. When was the attack made on Fort Bowyer?

This fort, situated near Mobile, Alabama, was attacked by a British land force of seven hundred and thirty troops and two hundred Creek Indians on September 15, 1814. Though the attacking party was assisted by a naval force, the garrison of one hundred and thirty-four men, rank and file, defended it successfully. They lost only five killed and

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four wounded, while the British lost one hundred and sixty-two killed and seventy wounded.

523. What is the meaning of Brazil?

This South American empire was called the "Land of the Holy Cross" by Alvarez de Cabral, a Portuguese, who discovered the country accidentally, by being driven on its coast in a tempest on the twenty-sixth of January, 1500. It was subsequently called Brazil, *on account of its red wood.* The French having seized Portugal in 1807, the royal family and nobles embarked for Brazil, and landed on March 7, 1808.

524. How did the Capitol in Rome derive its name?

So called because a human head (*caput*) was found when the foundations of the principal fortress of Rome, on Mons Tarpeius were being dug. On this hill a temple to Jupiter was built, thence called *Jupiter Capitolinus.* The foundation was laid by Tarquinius Priscus, 616 B.C. The building was continued by Servius Tullius, and completed by Tarquinius Superbus, but was not dedicated till 507 B.C. by the Consul Horatius. It was burnt during the civil wars, 83 B.C., rebuilt by Sylla, and dedicated again by Lutatius Catullus, 69 B.C. The Roman consuls made large donations to this temple, and the Emperor Augustus bestowed on it two thousand pounds' weight of gold, of which metal the roof was composed; its thresholds were of brass, and its anterior was decorated with shields of solid silver. It was destroyed by lightning 188 B.C.; by fire A.D. 70, and rebuilt by Domitian. The Capitoline *games*, instituted 387 B.C., were revived by Domitian, A.D. 86. The Campidoglio contains palaces of the senators, erected on the site of the Capitol by Michael Angelo soon after 1546.

525. When was the *clepsydra* first used?

This "water-clock" was introduced at Rome about 158 B.C. by Scipio Nasica. Toothed wheels were applied to them by Ctesibius about 140 B.C. They are said to have been found by Cæsar in Britain 55 B.C. The only clock supposed to be then in the world was sent by Pope Paul I. to Pepin, king of France, A.D. 760.

526. What was the Praslin murder?

The killing of the Duchesse de Choiseul-Praslin by her husband, the Duc de Praslin, at his own house, in Paris, on August 17, 1847. She was the only daughter of the celebrated Marshal Sebastiani, the mother of nine children, and forty years old. The Duc, who attempted to give the impression that it was the act of another, committed suicide by taking poison during the arrangements for the trial.

527. Whose lamp sold for three thousand drachmas?

The earthen lamp of Epictetus, the philosopher, was sold for this sum after his death in the year 161.

528. Where were the four labyrinths?

Pliny states that one was built by Dædalus, to secure the Minotaur, in the island of Crete, about 1210 B.C.; another by Psammetichus, king of Moeris, in the isle of that name in Egypt, about 683 B.C.; a third at Lemnos, remarkable for its sumptuous pillars, which seems to have been a stalactite grotto; and the fourth at Clusium, in Italy, erected by Porsenna, king of Etruria, about 520 B.C. Herodotus writes that the beauty and art of the labyrinth of Mendes were almost beyond belief; it had twelve halls and three thousand chambers, with pillars; was incrusted with marble

and adorned with sculpture. With the labyrinth of Woodstock is connected the story of Fair Rosamond. The Maze at Hampton Court was formed at the end of the sixteenth century.

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529. Who was the nurse of Romulus?

Acca Laurentia is said to have been either the nurse of Romulus or Remus, or a rich dissolute woman, who bequeathed her property to the Roman people. *Laurentalia* were festivals celebrated at Rome in her honor. They commenced about 621 B.C., and were held on the last day of April and the twenty-third of December.

530. What city was founded by Pizarro?

Lima, Peru, in 1535; for, as he was marching through the country, he was struck with the beauty of the valley of Rimac, and there he founded this city, and called it *Ciudad de los Reyes*, or City of the Kings. Here he was assassinated, June 26, 1541.

531. Who is said to have kept *one hundred and eighty* Christmasses in his own house?

Golour M'Crain, of the Isle of Jura, one of the Hebrides, who died in the reign of Charles I., being the oldest man (as Greig states), on anything approaching to authentic records, that had lived for upwards of three thousand years.

532. What is the London Stone?

One of the greatest antiquities of the city of London, having been known before the time of William I. It is said to have been placed by the Romans in Cannon Street, then the center of the city, 15 B.C. It was removed from the

opposite side of the way in 1742. It was against this stone that Jack Cade struck his sword, exclaiming: "Now is Mortimer lord of this city!" in 1450.

533. What is the custom of Borough-English?

It is the novel feature of the youngest son, instead of the eldest, succeeding to the property, rights, and burgage tenure, at his father's death. This practice is in vogue in Maldon (Essex), England.

534. Who is the Mantuan Bard?

Virgil (Publius Virgilius Maro) is often styled thus, as he was born in a village near the city of Mantua, Italy, in the year 70 B.C.

Alfred Tennyson (1810–), at the request of the Mantuans, wrote one of his finest poems for the nineteenth centenary of Virgil's death, which occurred October 22, 19 B.C.

> "Roman Virgil, thou that singest
> Ilion's lofty temples robed in fire,
> Ilion falling, Rome arising,
> Wars, and filial faith, and Dido's pyre."

535. Where can be found the common saying, "Eaten me out of house and home"?

It is found in Shakespeare's *King Henry*, part ii. act ii. scene i., but the germ of the expression is given in much older writings.

536. By whom were masks invented?

By Poppæa, the wife of Nero, to guard her complexion from the sun; but theatrical masks were in use among the Greeks and Romans. Horace attributes them to Æschylus; yet Aristotle said that the inventor and time of

their introduction were unknown. Modern masks, and muffs, fans, and false hair for the women, were devised in Italy, and brought to England from France in 1572.

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537. Who is the author of

"Compound for sins they are inclined to,
By damning those they have no mind to"?

Samuel Butler (1612–1680). It is given in *Hudibras*, that witty burlesque of the manners of the Puritans, part i. canto i., line 215. Butler, who expected much from the popularity of his poem at court, looked in vain for promotion from Charles II., and at his death was buried at the expense of a friend. At a later period a handsome monument was erected to him, which gave occasion to the following epigram: —

"When Butler, — needy wretch! was yet alive,
No generous patron would a dinner give:
See him, when starved to death and turned to dust,
Presented with a monumental bust.
The poet's fate is here in emblem shown:
He asked for bread, and he received a stone."

The probability of the non-advancement of Butler's interests at court lay in his lack of conversational ingenuity and pleasantry; for it is related that the witty Charles II., who was so charmed with the humor of *Hudibras* that he caused himself to be introduced privately to the author, found Butler an intolerably dull companion. He was confident that so stupid a fellow never wrote a book. The Earl of Dorset, who sought an interview with the great satirist, was similarly disappointed. Taking three bottles of wine with him, he found the poet dull and heavy after the first had been drained, somewhat sparkling after the second bottle, and after the third more stupid and muzzy than ever. "Your friend," said the earl, after he had left with his

introducer, "is like a nine-pin — small at both ends and great in the middle."

538. What is the meaning of Maunday-Thursday?

It is derived by Spelman from *mande*, a hand-basket, in which the king was accustomed to give alms to the poor; by others from *dies mandati*, the day on which Christ gave his grand *mandate* that we should love one another. It is the Thursday before Good Friday, and on this day it was the custom of the English kings, or their almoners, to give alms, food, and clothing to as many poor men as their royal highnesses were years old. It was begun by Edward III., when he was fifty years of age, in 1363.

539. Who threw the head of Asdrubal at his brother's (Hannibal) feet?

Claudius Nero, who, with Livius, both of whom were consuls, led the Romans against the brother of Hannibal at the Metaurus, a river in central Italy, where Asdrubal (or Hasdrubal) was totally defeated and slain, while marching with large re-enforcements to aid Hannibal. It is said that Hannibal upon seeing the gory head of his brother was filled with dire forebodings and a distrust of his own military genius, which had until this time brought him a succession of victories; and this prophetic feeling was realized by a series of disasters and the final defeat which befell him.

540. Who drank the burnt remains (ashes) of her brother?

Artemesia, who married her own brother, Mausolus, king of Caria, in Asia Minor, 377 B.C. At his death she drank in liquor his ashes after his body had been burned,

and erected to his memory at Halicarnassus a monument, one of the seven wonders of the world (350 B.C.), termed *Mausoleum*. She invited all the literary men of her age to the funeral rites, and proposed rewards to him who composed the best elegiac panegyric upon her husband. The prize was adjudged to Theopompus, 353 B.C. Artemesia died five years after this. The statute of Mausolus is among the antiquities brought from Halicarnassus by Mr. C. T. Newton, in 1857, and placed in the British Museum. Queen Victoria founded a mausoleum, for the royal family of England, at Frogmore, March 15, 1862.

541. What was the Meal-Tub Plot?

A plot against the Duke of York, afterward James II., planned by one Dangerfield, who secreted a bundle of seditious letters in the lodgings of Colonel Maunsell, and then gave information to the custom-house officers to search for smuggled goods, on October 23, 1679.

After Dangerfield's arrest on suspicion of forging these letters, papers were found concealed in a *meal-tub* at the house of a woman with whom he cohabited, which contained the scheme in the shape of an accusation sworn against the most eminent persons in the Protestant interest (who were against the Duke of York's succession), of treason, particularly the Earls of Shaftesbury, Essex, and Halifax. On Dangerfield being whipped the last time, as part of his punishment, June 1, 1685, one of his eyes was struck out by a barrister named Robert Francis; this caused his death, for which his assailant was hanged.

542. What was the origin of *mesmerism?*

The name is derived from its reputed founder, Frederick Anthony Mesmer, a German physician of Mersburg, who

published his doctrines in 1766, contending, by a thesis on planetary influence, that the heavenly bodies diffused through the universe a subtle fluid which acts on the nervous system of animated beings. Quitting Vienna for Paris in 1778, he gained numerous proselytes to his system in France, where he received 340,000 livres. The government appointed a committee of physicians and members of the Academy of Sciences to investigate his pretensions. Among these were Franklin and Bailly, and the results appeared in an admirable paper drawn up by the latter, 1784, exposing the futility of animal magnetism, as the delusion was then termed. Mesmerism excited attention again about 1848, when Miss Harriet Martineau and others announced their belief in it.

543. How did the Minié Rifle get its name?

From M. Minié, its inventor, at Vincennes about 1833. M. Minié, who was born about 1800, raised himself from a common soldier to the rank of *chef d'escadron*. His rifle, which was considered superior to all previously made for accuracy of direction and extent of range, was adopted by the French, and, with various modifications, by the British army in 1852; but it has been long since superseded by more recent improved fire-arms.

544. Who caused the massacre of *one hundred thousand* Romans?

Mithridates, king of Pontus, 88 B.C., and this massacre led to the Mithridatic War, remarkable for its duration, its many battles, the destruction of human life it occasioned, and the cruelties of its commanders. Mithridates, having captured the Consul Aquilius, made him ride on an ass through a great part of Asia, crying out as he

rode: "I am Aquilius, consul of the Romans!" He ultimately dispatched him by ordering melted gold to be poured down his throat, in derision of his avarice, 85 B.C. Mithridates was defeated by Pompey 66 B.C., and committed suicide, 63 B.C.

545. Who was the "Corinthian Maid?"

The daughter of Dibutades, the Corinthian, who is the reputed inventor of models in clay. This daughter being about to be separated from her lover, who was going on a distant journey, traced his profile by his shadow on the wall. Her father filled up the outline with clay, which he afterward baked, and thus produced a figure of the object of her affection, giving rise to an art, till then unknown,—about 985 B.C.

546. In what battle did the Americans whip the *Loyalists* without the loss of a single man?

That of Moore's Creek Bridge (North Carolina), on the twenty-seventh of February, 1776, when the Tory Scotch Highlanders living at Fayetteville and vicinity, led by Donald M'Donald, had a severe engagement with the Americans, led by Colonels Caswell and Lillington. The Scotch were fifteen hundred strong, while the Americans only numbered about one thousand. The former, defeated, lost seventy men killed and wounded; the latter none, and had only two wounded.

547. When was the first newspaper issued?

The Roman *Acta Diurna* were issued, it is said, 691 B.C. In modern times, a *Gazetta*, which derived its name from its price, a small coin, was published in Venice about 1536. The *Gazette de France*, now existing, first appeared in April,

1631, edited by Renaudot, a physician. It was patronized by the king, Louis XIII., who wrote one article for it, and by Richelieu. The first real newspaper published in England was established by Sir Roger L'Estrange in 1663; it was entitled the *Public Intelligencer*, and continued nearly three years, when it ceased, on the appearance of the *Gazette*. In the reign of James I. (1622) appeared the *London Weekly Courant;* and in the year 1643 (the period of the Civil War) were printed a variety of publications, but none deserving the name of newspapers. The first American newspaper was *The Boston News-Letter* which appeared on April 24, 1704, although in September, 1690, an adventurous printer had made a similar attempt in the same town, the publication of which was suppressed by the authorities, and only one copy is now known to be in existence.

By some, the oldest newspaper in the world is said to be the *King-Pau* ("Capital Sheet"), published in Pekin, and, since the fourth of June, 1882, issued in a new form, prescribed by special edict of the reigning emperor, Quang-soo. It first appeared A.D. 911, but came out only at irregular intervals. Since the year 1351, however, it has been published weekly, and of uniform size. Until its reorganization by imperial decree it contained nothing but orders in council and court news, was published about midday, and cost two *kesh*, or something less than a half-penny. Now, however, it appears in three editions daily. The first, issued early in the morning and printed on yellow paper, is called *Hsing-Pau* ("Business Sheet"), and contains trade prices, exchange quotations, and all manner of commercial intelligence. Its circulation is a little over eight thousand. The second edition, which comes out during the forenoon, also printed upon yellow paper, is devoted to official announcements, fashionable intelligence, and general

news. Besides its ancient title of *King-Pau*, it owns another designation, that of *Shuen-Pau* ("Official Sheet"). The third edition appears late in the afternoon, is printed on red paper and bears the name of *Titani-Pau* ("Country Sheet"). It consists of extracts from the earlier editions, and has a large list of subscribers in the provinces. All these issues of the *King-Pau* are edited by six members of the Han-Lin Academy of Sciences, appointed and salaried by the Chinese government. The total number of copies printed daily varies between thirteen and fourteen thousand.

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548. What was Monmouth's Rebellion?

James, duke of Monmouth (born at Rotterdam, April 9, 1649), a natural son of Charles II., by Lucy Waters, was banished from England for his connection with the Rye-house plot in 1683. He invaded England at Lyme, June 11, 1685; was proclaimed King at Taunton, June 20; was defeated at Sedgemoor, near Bridgewater, July 6; and was beheaded on Tower Hill, July 15.

549. How did the *dahlia* derive its name?

From the Swedish botanist, Professor Dahl, who first cultivated it. This beautiful flower was brought from Mexico, of which it is a native, in the present century. It soon became a favorite in England, and in 1815, about two months after the battle of Waterloo, it was introduced into France, and the celebrated florist André Thouine suggested various practical improvements in its management. The botanist Georgi shortly before introduced it at St. Petersburg; hence the dahlia is known in Germany as the *Georgina*.

550. What was the result of Despard's Conspiracy?

Colonel Edward Marcus Despard, a native of Ireland, and Broughton, Francis, Graham, Macnamara, Wood, and Wrattan, conspired to seize the king's person on the day of his meeting Parliament, January 16, 1803, to destroy him, and overturn the government. A special commission was issued on February 7, and they suffered death on the top of Horsemonger Lane jail, Southwark, February 21, 1803. Between thirty and forty persons of inferior order were taken into custody, on November 16, 1802, for this conspiracy, which caused great consternation at the time.

551. When was idleness punished with as much severity as murder?

In 621 B.C., by Draco's Laws, enacted by him when archon of Athens. On account of their severity they were said to be written in blood. This code was set aside by Solon's, 594 B.C.

552. What is the story of the Countess de la Motte and the diamond necklace?

Boehmer, the court jeweler of France, offered the queen, Marie Antoinette, in 1785, a diamond necklace for £64,000. The queen desired the necklace, but dreaded the expense. The Countess de la Motte (of the ancient house of Valois) forged the queen's signature, and by pretending that the queen had an attachment for him, persuaded the Cardinal de Rohan, the queen's almoner, to conclude a bargain with the jeweler for the necklace for £56,000. De la Motte thus obtained the necklace and made away with it, and for this she was tried in 1786, and sentenced to be branded on the shoulders and imprisoned for life. She accused, in vain, the celebrated Italian adventurer, Cagliostro, of complicity in

the affair, he being then intimate with the cardinal. Making her escape, she went to London, where she was killed by falling from a window-sill in attempting to escape an arrest for debt. De Rohan was tried and acquitted, April 14, 1786. The public in France at that time suspected the queen of being a party to the fraud, and Talleyrand wrote in reference to it: "I shall not be surprised if this miserable affair overturn the throne."

553. Who was the "El Dorado"?

The word means the "Gilded Man." When the Spaniards had conquered Mexico and Peru, they began to look for new sources of wealth, and, having heard of a golden city ruled by a king or priest, smeared in oil and rolled in gold dust (which report was founded on an annual custom of the Indians), they organized various expeditions into the interior of South America, about 1560, which were accompanied with disasters and crimes. Raleigh's expeditions in search of gold, in 1596 and 1617, led to his downfall, and subsequent death on the scaffold.

554. Who were the Fabii?

A noble and powerful family at Rome, who derived their name from *faba*, a bean, because some of their ancestors cultivated this pulse; they were said to be descended from Fabius, a supposed son of Hercules, and were once so numerous that they took upon themselves to wage war against the Veientes. They came to a general engagement near the Cremera, in which all the family, consisting of three hundred and six men, were slain in a sudden attack, 447 B.C. There only remained one, whose tender age had detained him at Rome, and from him arose the noble Fabii in the following ages. Fabius *Cunctator* (The Delayer) kept

Hannibal in check for some time without coming to an engagement. 217–216 B.C.

555. What is the oldest fable on record?

Joseph Addison (1672–1719) wrote: "Jotham's fable of the trees (Judges ix., about 1209 B.C.) is the oldest extant, and as beautiful as any made since." Nathan's fable of the poor man (2 Sam. xii., about 1034 B.C.) is next in antiquity. The earliest collection of fables extant is of Eastern origin, and is preserved in the Sanscrit. The fables of Vishnoo Sarma, called Pilpay, are the most beautiful, if not the most ancient, in the world. (*Sir William Jones.*) The well-known Æsop's Fables, which are doubtless a compilation from various sources, supposed to have been written about 565 or 620 B.C., were versified by Babrius, a Greek poet, about 130 B.C., and turned into prose by Maximus Planudes, a Greek monk, about 1320, who added other fables, and appended a worthless life of Æsop. The fables of La Fontaine (1700) and Gay (1727) are also highly celebrated.

556. What was the original cause of exempting members of Congress or Parliament from arrest (except for felonies) during a session?

The Hon. George Ferrars, a member of Parliament, being in attendance on the House, was taken in execution by a sheriff's officer for debt, and committed to the Compter prison, in March, 1542. The House dispatched their sergeant to require his release, which was resisted, and an affray taking place, his mace was broken. The House in a body repaired to the Lords to complain, when the contempt was adjudged to be very great, and the punishment of the offenders was referred to the Lower House. On another messenger being sent to the sheriffs by the Commons, they

delivered up the senator, and the civil magistrates and the creditor were committed to the Tower, the inferior officers to Newgate, and an act was passed releasing Mr. Ferrars from liability from debt. The king, Henry VIII., highly approved of all these proceedings, and the transaction became the basis of that rule of Parliament which exempts members from arrest. — *Holinshed.*

557. When was the fan first known?

It was known to the ancients, for Terence in his *Eunuchus*, B.C. 166, wrote: "*Cape hoc flabellum, et ventulum huic sic facito*" ("Take this fan and give her thus a little air"). Fans, together with muffs, masks, and false hair, were first devised by the harlots in Italy, and were brought to England from France. Pardon states that the fan was used by females to hide their faces at church. In the British Museum are fan-handles and other articles of Egyptian manufacture, used anciently by women.

558. When did funeral orations "come in fashion"?

The Romans pronounced harangues over their dead, when eminent for rank, great deeds, and virtues. Reference has already been made to Theopompus obtaining a prize for the best *Funeral Oration* in praise of Mausolus. Popilia was the first Roman lady who had an oration pronounced at her funeral, which was done by her son, Crassus; and it is observed by Cicero that Julius Cæsar performed a similar service for his aunt, Julia, and his wife, Cornelia. In Greece, Solon was the first who pronounced a funeral oration, according to Herodotus, 580 B.C. David lamented over Saul and Jonathan, 1056 B.C., and over Abner, 1048 B.C. (2 Sam. i. and iii.). *Funeral Games*, which among the Greeks were chiefly horse-races, and among the Romans

processions and mortal combats of gladiators around the funeral pile, were abolished by the Emperor Claudius, A.D. 47.

559. What was Oates's Plot?

Titus Oates, who at one time served as a chaplain of a ship-of-war, was dismissed for immoral conduct, and became a lecturer in London. In conjunction with Dr. Tongue he invented a plot against the Roman Catholics, who, he asserted, had conspired to assassinate Charles II., and extirpate the Protestant religion. He made it known August 12, 1678, and, in consequence, about eighteen Roman Catholics were accused and upon false testimony convicted and executed: among them the aged Viscount Stafford, December 29, 1680. Oates was afterward tried for perjury (in the reign of James II.), and being found guilty, was fined, put in the pillory, publicly whipped from Newgate to Tyburn, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, May, 1685. On the accession of William and Mary he was pardoned, and a pension of £3 a week granted him in 1689.

560. Who was Orator Henley?

An English clergyman of some talents and great eccentricity who obtained this name by opening what he called his "Oratory," in London (1726). He had a kind of Chapel in Newport Market, where he gave lectures on theological topics on Sundays, and on other subjects on Wednesdays of every week. Novelty procured him a number of hearers; but he was too imprudent to gain any permanent advantage from his project. After having served as a butt for the satirical wits, poets, and painters of his time, he removed his oratory to Clare Market, and sank into comparative obscurity and contempt prior to his death in 1756.

561. Who defeated five kings?

Alfonso, count or duke of Portugal, who, at Ourique (Portugal), on the twenty-fifth of July, 1139, encountered five Saracen kings and a prodigious army of Moors, and signally defeated them. He was hailed King upon the spot. Lisbon, the capital, was then taken, and soon after he was crowned there as their first king, the Moorish dominion being overthrown.

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562. How was Captain Cook killed?

He fell a victim to the sudden resentment of the natives of Owhyhee, or Hawaii, on February 14, 1779; having discovered the island the previous year. A boat having been stolen by one of the islanders, the captain went on shore to seize the king, and keep him as a hostage till the boat was restored. The people would not submit to this insult, and their resistance brought on hostilities, during which Captain Cook and some of his companions were killed.

563. What was the Pantheon?

A temple built at Rome by Augustus Cæsar, or his son-in-law, 27 B.C. It was in a round form, having niches in the wall, where the image or representation of a particular god was set up; the gates were of brass, the beams covered with gilt brass, and the roof covered with silver plate. Pope Boniface III. dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, and all the saints, by the name of S. Maria della Rotonda, or "*ad Martyres*," A.D. 608. The Pantheon in London was erected by subscription, and opened January 25, 1772. It was formed into an opera house; burnt down January 14, 1792; was rebuilt in 1795 and 1812; and made a bazaar in 1834.

564. Who was Nell Gwynn?

A popular actress and favorite of Charles II. In his *History of the Stage*, Curll states that Nell first captivated the king by her manner of delivering the epilogue to Dryden's *Tyrannic Love; or, The Royal Martyr*. The tragedy was founded upon the story of the martyrdom of St. Catherine, by way of compliment to Catherine of Braganza. She personated *Valeria*, the daughter of Maximin, tyrant of Rome. The "last words" of the Merry Monarch were: "Don't let poor Nelly starve." She died poor and neglected.

565. Who was the first parricide of whom we have any account?

Ostius, who, having killed his father about 172 B.C., was first scourged by the Romans, then sewed up in a leathern sack made air-tight, with a live dog, a cock, a viper, and an ape, and thus cast into the sea. Before this there had been no law against it in Athens or Rome, as such a crime was not supposed possible.

566. What is the meaning of "Remember the Raisin"?

The river Raisin is remarkable in history as the place of a foul massacre on the twenty-third of January, 1813. The Americans had been attacked and routed by General Proctor, half of whose force consisted of Indians. The American general and his second in command were captured, and their troops surrendered on Proctor's promise of protection and safety. The British general marched off leaving no guard for the Americans. The Indians returned and burnt the sick and wounded in the houses; threw others into the flames; tomahawked and scalped many more. Only thirty-

three escaped out of a thousand. The victorious American army under General Harrison afterward fired their hearts to deeds of valor and bravery by sounding this war-cry.

567. What was the origin of *pasquinades?*

Small satirical poems obtained this name about 1533. They originated in the sixteenth century at the stall of a cobbler named Pasquin, at Rome, where a number of idle persons used to assemble to listen to his pleasant sallies, and to relate little anecdotes in their turn, and indulge themselves in raillery at the expense of the passers-by. After the cobbler's death the statue of a gladiator was found near his stall, to which the people gave his name, and on which the wits of the time, secretly at night, affixed their lampoons upon the State and their neighbors.

568. What is the name of the isthmus that connects the Crimea with the mainland?

Perekop, which is five miles broad. It was called by the Tartars, Orkapou, "Gate of the Isthmus," which the Russians changed to its present name, signifying a barren ditch. The Tartar fortress was taken and destroyed by the Russian Marshal Münich in 1736, by assault, although it was defended by one thousand Janissaries and one hundred thousand Tartars. It was again strongly fortified by the khan, but was again taken by the Russians in 1771, who have since retained it.

569. What was the first known game of cards?

Picquet, which was invented, it is said, by Joquemin, for the amusement of Charles VI. of France, then in feeble health, in the year 1390.

570. Who was Taurosthenes?

He was the one who, according to Ovid, announced to his father his victory at the Olympic games by sending to him at Ægina a pigeon stained with purple. Relative to carrier-pigeons it is said that Hirtius and Brutus corresponded by means of them at the siege of Modena. In modern times, the most noted were the pigeons of Aleppo, which served as couriers at Alexandretta and Bagdad. Thirty-two pigeons sent to Antwerp were liberated from London at seven o'clock in the morning, and on the same day, at noon, one of them arrived at Antwerp; a quarter of an hour afterward a second arrived; the remainder on the following day, November 23, 1819.

571. The house of *Plantagenet* furnished fourteen English kings; what is the meaning of the name?

The kings were from Henry II. to Richard III., killed at the battle of Bosworth. The name originated with Fulke Martel, earl of Anjou, who contrived the death of his nephew, the Earl of Brittany, in order to succeed to the earldom. His confessor sent him, in atonement for the murder, to Jerusalem, attended by only two servants, one of whom was to lead him by a halter to the Holy Sepulcher, the other to strip and whip him there, like a common malefactor. Broom, in French *genet*, in Latin *genista*, being the only tough, pliant shrub in Palestine, the noble criminal was smartly scourged with it, and from this instrument of his chastisement he was called *Planta-genista*, or Plantagenet.

572. What was the *aqua tofana?*

A deadly poison freely administered by Italians in the seventeenth century, and so called from the name of the woman Tofania, who made and sold it in small flat phials.

She carried on this traffic for half a century, and eluded the police; but, on being taken, confessed that she had been a party in poisoning six hundred people. Numerous persons were implicated by her, and many of them were publicly executed. All Italy was thrown into a ferment, and many fled, and some persons of distinction, on conviction, were strangled in prison. It had been used chiefly by married women who were tired of their husbands. Four or six drops were a fatal dose; but the effect was not sudden, and therefore not suspected. It was as clear as water, but the chemists have not agreed about its real composition. A proclamation of the pope described it as *aquafortis* distilled into arsenic, but others considered it as a solution of crystallized arsenic. Between 1666 and 1676 the Marchioness de Brinvilliers poisoned her father and two brothers and many others. She was executed July 16, 1676.

573. Where was Nephelo-coccygia?

A town in the clouds built by the cuckoos. It was built to cut off from the gods the incense offered by man, so as to compel them to come to terms. — *Aristophanes*, born about 444 B.C. — *The Birds*.

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574. How was Pompeii discovered?

This city, first demolished by an earthquake in A.D. 63, was buried from human view by the awful eruption of Vesuvius on the night of August 24, 79. After a lapse of fifteen centuries, a countryman, as he was turning up the ground, accidentally found a bronze figure; and this discovery attracting the attention of the learned, farther search brought numerous other objects to light, and at length the city was once more shone on by the sun. The part first cleared in 1750 was supposed to be the main street.

The kings of Naples have greatly aided in uncovering Pompeii, and the present Italian government resumed the work in 1863.

575. Who was called the "tenth muse?"

Sappho, the lyric poetess of Mitylene, who invented the Sapphic Verse. She was equally celebrated for her poetry, beauty, and a hopeless passion for Phaon, a youth of her native country, on which last account, it is said, she threw herself into the sea from Mount Leucas, and was drowned. The Lesbians, after her death, 594 B.C., paid her divine honors, and called her the tenth muse. The story is considered generally to be fabulous. This term has also been applied to Mrs. Anne Bradstreet (1612–1672), the daughter of one Governor of Massachusetts, and wife of another. In 1640, she published a volume of poems which excited great admiration in England.

576. What was the Strelitz?

The imperial guard of Russia, established by Ivan IV. in 1568. Becoming frequently seditious, it was suppressed by Peter the Great; great numbers were put to death, many by the czar's own hand in the years 1697–1704.

577. Who were the Volsci?

An ancient Latin people who were frequently at war with the Romans. From their capital, Corioli, Caius Martius (who defeated them about 490 B.C.) derived his name Coriolanus. The story of his banishment by his ungrateful countrymen; of his revenge on them by bringing the Volsci to the gates of Rome, yet afterward sparing the city at the entreaties of his mother, Volumnia (487 B.C.), is considered by many as a poetical legend. The Volsci were finally

subdued and incorporated into the Roman people about 338 B.C.

578. What was the Thundering Legion?

During a contest with the invading Marcomanni, the prayers of some Christians in a Roman legion are said to have been followed by a storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, which tended greatly to discomfit the enemy. Hence the legion received the above name in the year A.D. 174.

579. What king was crowned on the field of battle?

Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth Field, which was the thirteenth and last battle between the houses of York and Lancaster, fought on August 22, 1485. It is said that Henry was crowned on the spot with the crown of Richard III., which was found in a hawthorn bush near the field.

580. Who died in consequence of being ducked as a wizard?

A poor old paralyzed Frenchman who thus suffered death at Castle Hedingham, Essex, England, on September 4, 1863.

581. Who is the author of the familiar quotation: "Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast"?

William Congreve (1670-1729). It is found in *The Mourning Bride*, act i. sc. i. In the same is to be found the well-known quotation: —

> "Earth has no rage like love to hatred turned,
> Nor hell a fury like a woman scorned."

and in *The Old Bachelor*, by the same writer, are the lines: —

> "Thus grief still treads upon the heels of pleasure;
> Married in haste, we may repent at leisure."

582. What is the story of Mazeppa?

Historically he was the hetman of the Cossacks (1640–1709). He was born of a noble Polish family in Podolia, and became a page at the court of Jan Casimir, king of Poland. While in this capacity he intrigued with Theresia, the young wife of a Podolian count, who discovered the amour, and had the young page lashed to a wild horse and turned adrift. The horse rushed in mad fury and dropped down dead in the Ukraine, where Mazeppa was released by a Cossack family, who nursed him carefully in their own hut. In time he became secretary to the hetman, and at the death of the prince was appointed his successor. Peter I much admired his energy of character, and created him prince of the Ukraine, but in the wars with Sweden, Mazeppa deserted to Charles XII., and fought against Russia at the battle of Pultowa. After the loss of this battle, Mazeppa fled to Valentia, and then to Bender. Some say he died a natural death, and others that he was put to death by the czar for treason. Lord Byron makes Mazeppa tell his tale to Charles after the battle of Pultowa.

"For time at last sets all things even;
And, if we do but watch the hour,
There never yet was human power
That could evade, if unforgiven,
The patient search and vigil long
Of him who treasures up a wrong."

583. What is the origin of the fable of the "Man in the Moon"?

Its origin is from Numbers xv., 32–36. Some say it is a man leaning on a fork, on which he is carrying a bundle of sticks picked up on a Sunday. Some add a dog also, and thus the prologue in *Midsummer Night's Dream* says, "This man with lantern, dog, and bush of thorns, presenteth

moonshine." Chaucer writes, "He stole the bush." (*Test. of Creseide.*) Another tradition states that the man is Cain, with the dog and thorn bush; the thorn bush being emblematical of the thorns and briers of the fall, and the dog being the "foul fiend." Some poets make out the "man" to be the youth Endymion, taken thither by Diana.

584. Who were the three angels who warned Abraham of Sodom's destruction?

According to the Koran they were Israfil, Gabriel, and Michael. The first is the angel of music, who possessed the most melodious voice of all God's creatures. He is to sound the Resurrection Trump, and will ravish the ears of the saints in paradise.

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585. Who was Iros?

The beggar of gigantic stature who kept watch over the suitors of Penelope. His real name was Arneos, but the suitors nicknamed him Iros because he carried their messages for them. Ulysses, on his return, felled him to the ground with a single blow, and flung him out of doors.

586. What stone did the ancients believe (when placed under the tongue) imparted the gift of prophecy?

The Hyena was worshipped by the ancient Egyptians. Pliny states that a certain stone, called the "hyænia," found in the eye of the creature, when placed under the tongue, imparted this gift.

587. Who were the "Notables"?

In French history they were an assembly of notable men, selected by the king, of the house of Valois, to form

a parliament. They were convened in 1626 by Richelieu, and not again till 1787, when Louis XVI. called them together with the view of relieving the nation from some of its pecuniary embarrassments. The last time they ever assembled was November 6, 1788.

588. Who were Inkle and Yarico?

The hero and heroine of a drama, so called, by George Colman. The story is from the *Spectator*, No. 11. Inkle is a young Englishman who is lost in the Spanish Main; he falls in love with Yarico, an Indian maiden, whom he lives with as his wife; but no sooner does he find a vessel to take him to Barbadoes, than he sells her for a slave.

589. Why was the Passion Flower so named?

Because of a fancied resemblance in different parts of the flower to various articles connected with the "passion" or crucifixion of our Lord. The five *anthers* symbolize the five wounds; the three *styles*, the three nails; the *column* on which the ovary is elevated, the pillar of the cross; the *fleshy threads* within the flower, the crown of thorns; and the calyx, the *nimbus*.

590. From what legend did Swift derive his model of *Gulliver's Travels?*

From that relating to the Pygmies, a nation of dwarfs on the banks of the Upper Nile. Every spring the cranes made war upon them, and devoured them. They cut down every corn-ear with an axe. When Hercules went to the country they climbed up his goblet by ladders to drink from it; and while he was asleep two whole armies of them fell upon his right hand, and two upon his left; but Hercules rolled them all in his lion's skin.

591. Who wrote, "When our ears do glow and tingle, some do talk of us in our absence"?

Pliny. Shakespeare, in *Much Ado About Nothing* (iii. 1), makes Beatrice say to Ursula and Hero, who had been talking of her, "What fire is mine ears?" Sir Thomas Browne ascribes this conceit to the superstition of guardian angels, who touch the right ear if the talk is favorable, and the left if otherwise. This is done to cheer or warn.

> "One ear tingles; some there be
> That are snarling now at me."
>
> Herrick, *Hesperides.*

Relative to the phrase "Walls have ears," Chaucer (1328–1400) wrote in the *Canterbury Tales* (v. 1524): "That field hath eyen, and the wood hath ears." There is a beautiful superstition among the Irish peasantry that when a sleeping infant smiles, angels are whispering to it.

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592. What is the origin of the *sandwich?*

Generally ascribed to the Earl of Sandwich, a man so fond of gambling that he passed whole days in the amusement, bidding the waiter bring him for refreshment a piece of meat between two pieces of bread, which he ate, without stopping from play. But this contrivance was not first used by the earl in the reign of George III., as the Romans were very fond of "sandwiches," called by them *offula.*

593. Upon what fact is Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* based?

It owes its existence to an incident which actually occurred to the author. When Goldsmith was sixteen years old, a wag residing at Ardagh directed him, when passing through that village, to Squire Featherstone's house as the

village inn. The mistake was not discovered by the poet until he demanded his bill at the conclusion of the morning meal, and then no one enjoyed it more heartily than Oliver himself.

The squire, having an acquaintance with Goldsmith's father, had resolved to carry out the joke, having readily discovered the hoax that had been perpetrated. The pompous young student ordered a good supper and invited the landlord (?) with his wife and family to share it with him. He treated them each with a bottle of wine, and upon retiring ordered a hot cake to be prepared for his breakfast.

594. What was the Day of the Dupes?

On November 11, 1630, when Marie de Médicis and Gaston, duc d'Orleans, extorted from Louis XIII. a promise that he would dismiss his minister, the Cardinal Richelieu. The cardinal went in all speed to Versailles, the king repented, and Richelieu became more powerful than ever. Marie de Médicis and Gaston were the dupes who had to pay dearly for their short triumph.

595. What is the Epact?

The excess of the solar above the lunar year, the former consisting of three hundred and sixty-five days and the latter three hundred and fifty-four, or eleven days fewer. The epact of any year is the number of days from the last new moon of the old year to the first of the following January.

596. What is the fable of the Phœnix?

It is said to live five hundred years, when it makes, in Arabia, a nest of spices, burns itself to ashes, and comes forth with renewed life for another five hundred

ears. Richardson states that it is said to have fifty orifices his bill, continued to his tail. After living one thousand ears, he builds for himself a funeral pile, sings a melodious r through his fifty organ-pipes, flaps his wings with velocity which sets fire to the pile, and consumes himself.

597. Who was Jaafer?

The one who carried the sacred banner of "the Prophet" Mohammed) at the battle of Muta. One hand being lopped f, he held it with the other; the other being struck off, he abraced it with his two stumps; his head being cleft twain, he flung himself on the banner staff, and the nner was detained thus till Abdallah seized it and handed to Khaled. A similar tale is told of Cynægeros (the other of Æschylus, the poet), at the battle of Marathon.

598. How did the *thistle* become the insignia of otland?

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The Danes thought it cowardly to attack an enemy by ght, but on one occasion deviated from their rule. On ey crept, barefooted, noiselessly, and unobserved, when e of the men set his foot on a thistle, which made him cry t. The alarm was given, the Scotch fell upon the night-rty, and defeated them with terrible slaughter. Ever ce, the thistle has been adopted as Scotland's emblem th the motto, *Nemo me impune lacessit* ("No one wounds with impunity.") This "thistle date" is unknown. e *Order of the Thistle*, also called the *Order of St. Andrew*, reputed on very insufficient grounds to be of great tiquity. The thistle is mentioned as the national emblem Scotland in the inventory of the effects of James III., o is thought to have adopted it. It appears on coins of nes IV., James V., Mary, and James VI.; having on

those of the last-named sovereign the motto above given. A collar of thistles appears on the gold bonnet pieces of James V., of 1539, and with the royal ensign depicted in Sir David Lindsay's armorial register of 1542.

599. To whom did Aurora grant immortality?

Tithonus, a beautiful Trojan, beloved by Aurora, in response to his request; but as he had forgotten to ask for youth and vigor, he soon grew old, infirm, and ugly. When life became insupportable he prayed Aurora to remove him from the world; this, however, she could not do, but she changed him into a grasshopper.

"An idle scene Tythonus acted
When to a grasshopper contracted."
Prior, *The Turtle and Sparrow.*

"The Morn arose from rich Tithonus' bed."
Hoole's *Orlando Furioso*, iv.

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600. What is the tradition of St. Patrick and the Serpent?

According to tradition, St. Patrick freed Ireland of its vermin; one old serpent resisted, but St. Patrick overcame it by cunning. He made a box and invited the serpent to enter it, but the reptile objected, saying it was too small. St. Patrick insisted it was quite large enough to be comfortable, and, after a long contention, the serpent entered it to prove its case, when the saint slammed down the lid, and threw the box into the sea. To complete this wonderful tale, the legend states that the waves of the sea are made by the writhings of this serpent, and the noise of the sea is that of the serpent imploring the saint to release it.

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